

Revised Assignment Sheet Essay #4

Assignment

This final assignment looks back to our first. For that assignment, we read several essays which discussed the purpose and content of a college education. Now that you've completed a semester of higher education, how did your experience compare with what you've read? How accurate was the portrayal of college in these essays?

Specifically, you will review Menand's "Live and Learn: Why We Have College," Gutting's "What is College For?" and Delbanco's "College at Risk" looking for sentences that address the college experience. Choose one of their points and write an essay showing how you did – or did not – gain the knowledge, skill, experience, etc. expressed by that point.

Your introduction should identify the author, essay, and point you'll be exploring in your essay. Paragraphs should argue for the validity of your view.

Requirements

Minimum words: your call. Your essay needs to include a title, introduction, a thesis and division statement, body paragraphs which develop your thesis and divisions and which use examples, descriptions and stories to prove that the reason is valid, and a conclusion.

Sources

You must include a minimum of one of the essays mentioned above. You can include additional sources and more than one quote from the reading.

If taken from the internet, any outside research MUST be from OCC library's databases (see "How Do I Find Sources" I&C 110+), accessible through our library's home page. ANY other internet source MUST (that's MUST) be approved by me *before* (that's BEFORE) you include them in your essay. The penalty? A substantially lowered grade (i.e. in the "D" range).

Follow MLA documenting guidelines when citing sources.

Learning Objectives

After successfully completing this assignment, you will have

1. demonstrated an ability to reflect upon your personal experience and connect it to larger ideas/philosophies
2. learned how to decide on a purpose for writing and an organizing principle, expressed in a thesis and forecasting/divisions statement, which effectively communicates information or presents an argument
3. demonstrated a repertoire of writing techniques (analogies, comparisons, and detailed examples, introducing sources) that clarifies your own thinking to others
4. demonstrated competency using MLA parenthetical citation
5. demonstrated your ability to write an essay with a minimum of proofreading errors.
6. improved your ability to manage your time

Planning

Okay, we've gone over several different methods of planning and revising essays. You have here an essay topic and requirements: what do you need to do write a competent essay? (hint – remember to check directions for essays one through three and remember the two part body paragraph development: connect your division to facts and then explain/argue why that division is worthwhile – or negative. And above all, think, research, think, plan, think, draft, think, revise, and think).

Grading Criteria

To receive a passing grade, you must successfully complete the following:

Organization: A thesis statement which clearly states the subject, your position and the divisions of your essay.

Content: Clear and balanced arguments, developed with examples, descriptions and stories, and a full and persuasive development of the reasoning behind each of the examples.

Proofreading: Sentences that are clear and no more than 4 major errors (these include sentence fragments, run-on sentences, verb-tense error, subject-verb agreement error, unclear phrasing, documentation error and spelling/wrong word error).