

In-Class Essay

You have fifty minutes to read the prompt and address the following questions in the form of an essay. You may use *The Reader*, notes, homework, classwork, and a dictionary. You may leave quietly if you finish before fifty minutes.

Prompt

One of the problems with the current educational system is that students must adjust to various learning situations. There are professors who lecture without considering their students' opinions and there are other professors who rely too much on their students' participation. Also, students are often graded by how well they do on a test or an essay rather than on what they have actually learned in a class. Due to these factors students are encouraged to treat every class separately in order to achieve success in each course. The students, the professors, and the university administration blame each other for not taking responsibility for the students' academic success.

Questions

When the student goes to the university to be educated, who is responsible to make sure the student receives this education? How should each student's success be measured?

Writing Instructions

Use your own observations and experiences for your evidence. Also use at least one of the two articles in the book (quote and cite). Any other relevant evidence that comes from the resources listed above may also be used.

Assignment #1

Revising and Editing

The focus of Assignment #1 is the writing strategy of revision. Do not forget the relationship between revising and editing.

- **Revising**—Working on the large issues that clarify your purpose and improve your organization.
- **Editing**—Checking your paper for correctness and style.

While writing this paper you should...

- Revise the text of the in-class essay. The in-class essay gave you fifty minutes to compose a text using limited resources. Now that you have more time and other resources to expand “on the large issues” and “improve your organization.”
- Consider or do the following tasks:
 - Question your claim—Is it arguable? Ask yourself, “Can I focus on a specific aspect or topic of my claim?”
 - Unify the paper as one argument, rather than several smaller arguments.
 - Further research—you are required to use one of the two articles from the book to develop your claim. And you must interview a friend or roommate and use their opinion as a source. Remember to consider whether this new information affects your claim.
 - Delete information that is not relevant.
 - Clearly define vocabulary that may confuse your reader, such as technical terms.
 - Make the significance of narratives, anecdotes, or illustrative background clear to a reader who is unfamiliar with all of the significant details.
 - Clearly explain the connection between the evidence and the claim.
 - Consider others’ feedback.
- Edit the paper as your last task.

The Logistics

Three-typed pages is sufficient. Because you probably did not write three-typed pages during the fifty minute in-class write, you probably need to add more to your text. If your in-class write reaches three-typed pages, add at least one more page.

The final draft is due on Wednesday, September 17.

Student Response

People tend to be blame someone about everything. Especially, in study, we can hear a lot of excuse after a test such as "The teacher taught us badly." This text book is not good." If we got a bad grade, anything could be wrong. But always, there a few people who could get a good grade. The difference in the few people is learning more than someone did. To learn something is up to the own ability, and these are all our individual responsibility. And there is a secret to success.

To study in the university, we have to have more own responsibility than we have done before. In high school, I did not have to choose my class. It was just automatically decided by teachers, and if I was going to fail the class, there was certainly some kind of help not to fail.

All these things have to be done in the university. Because there are many people in college. Teachers cannot take care of students personally. Students must take care of own self. Therefore it is natural to consider own grade more than what we learned in the class.

The reason why it is important to consider the grade is that we always need something to measure ourselves. In fact, we are looking for some kind of result for everything. It is same as sports competition. IN the next day of World Series Baseball, Super Bowl, Olympics, and so on, everybody want to know the result. Even though these things are achievement for another person or people, we cannot ignore it. The grade is just own result which shows exactly what you have done. And you never know what you know and what you do not know without grade.

There is another reason to encourage considering the grade. There is a logic such a "what we learn is more important than which grade we got," but this cannot be made up in the real world. I do not think that there is anyone who can see what we learned. This is why there is a grade. There is a small amount of people can accept this logic. It is only limited a person who does not need to consider to work or who have the certain job since he or she was born, in other words whose parents have a job which can be inherited by this person. These people does not have to consider the grade, because they will not be valued. That logic sound very nice and beautiful. It must be an ultimate and perfect purpose of studying, but we do not have a time to be perfect and to investigate ultimate world. These things are for a person who is, so called, genius. We have to survive in this world. The own satisfaction does not feed our stomach.

The opinion can be eliminated to be graded in the university level education, because we do not have certain opinion to persuade someone. I think the university is the place to make our opinion, not the place to show our opinion. We have few knowledge right now, therefore we are having the general education. The opinion which is based on poor knowledge is very easy to fail.

When we absorb the knowledge or opinion from the teachers, there might be a contradictory like Gerald Graft show in the story. But it does not really matter. We have to gather knowledge and opinion as much as possible. It will be fertilizer for us to make a good own opinion. And it will be good for us rather than to show and compare the poor own idea as we saw in Danling Fu's story.

She failed, because her knowledge was poor. Her literature knowledge was good enough. But why did she fail? Because she was lacking knowledge and observation about American culture. She was trying to understand American literature by the way as American think without preunderstanding the American culture. Therefore, her opinion was not good enough to be in American graduate school. In my opinion, literature classes are ungradeable, because there is no right or wrong.

And there is an argument whether teachers should listen our opinion. In the graduate school level, the answer is yes, because those people are educated enough to discuss and show their opinion. I doubt whether it is possible to discuss those things for freshman students in the university. Because they do not know anything about it or not good enough knowledge. There is just a disappointment after we show our poor knowledge or unlogical opinion. Some people might say that “we can fix each other and develop the knowledge and opinion.” The opinion cannot be construct by working together with someone. Because it is in ourselves. To work together for these things are very dangerous. It can harm each other as we can see from Fu’s story “I became more and more silent and felt more and more alienated in classes as the semester went by.”

I asked questions my roommate whose name is Manu Gonzalez, who is from Argentina and studying computer science in [the local community college]. The question was that “Why do you study in the university?” His answer was that “I have much knowledge about computer and I don’t even have to study in College, I can study by myself. But I need a piece of paper which prove that I know about computer. Computer is difficult to learn, because new technology is developed in every second. It is impossible to follow everything. Even if I finished studying in the college, the new technology which I did not study in college must be born after I graduate. But I just need to get the piece of paper to get a job.”

This opinion shows too much realism, but the truth. First of all, we should consider how to survive in the society. In someday, when we have afford to learn for ourselves, we, then, can investigate what we learn.

As a result, if we could construct our certain opinion with good grade, it would be the success of the student.