
Major Paper One

The Self in Education

Due: September 23rd, 2008 at the beginning of your HMXP class meeting

Last Day to Submit Drafts: September 16th, 2008

Paper Length: 1,200 – 1,500 words (1,200 word minimum does *not* include quotations)

Required: A type-written, double-spaced essay the following structure:

Completed Cover Page (see attached)

Body of the paper

Introductory paragraph concluded with thesis statement

Several paragraphs in which you present your argument

Conclusion (summary of major ideas from paper)

“Works Cited” page

An electronic copy of the document must be submitted to *Turnitin.com* on or before the due date/time. Please see course website for more information about Turnitin.

Topic: Your topic can be any idea related to the readings we have discussed in class through September 18th, 2005. The readings covered many different topics related to the nature of human knowledge and understanding. Generate your focus (the argument you intend to make) based on your own interactions with those readings (in class and/or out of class). Was there some statement from the readings or discussion that stuck with you? Do you agree or disagree with the author's or authors' statements about a topic? Either stance could make a good focus.

Here are some other *topic* ideas:

Censorship: Can it ever be a necessary evil, or just evil? Is it appropriate in some contexts?

Education: What are the goals of a college education? Would some of the authors be happy or unhappy with Winthrop? What are the State's interests in educating citizens? Why spend so much tax money on education? Are the State's goals altruistic or practical?

Metaphors: What about absolutes? Are there better ways to communicate? How do Plato's and Camus's metaphors relate to your life? Are you a cave dweller? What would be the effect of privatizing education so that everyone would be raised with different metaphors?

Communication: *Should* all argument be war? Would the other authors agree with Bohm about the problems with communication? Are there practical ways to help people break their blocks? What if they don't want to break out? What is the role of 24-hour media in the decay of communication? What would the authors think about the whole Red State-Blue State idea?

The last sentence of your introductory statement must be a properly formatted thesis statement. See “thesis statement” handout for more information. Your concluding paragraph must be a summary of your argument and should include no new material.

Be aware that quotations will not count toward minimal your word count total of 1,200 words. Keep direct quotes down to at most 3-4 *short phrases*. I am interested in what *you* have to say, not how well you can copy other people’s writing.

You must refer at least two *published* works, including whatever readings in our GNED 102 book (*The Human Experience*) you think are appropriate to your focus. One of those published works *must* be a reading from the first part of the course. Feel free to discuss other published material (newspaper articles, books, magazine articles, etc.). You may not cite encyclopedias or dictionaries (including online encyclopedias).

Your own personal experiences are also welcome as long as they are relevant to your topic and focus. If you want to include ideas brought up by other people in conversation (e.g., if you discussed a reading with your roommate or a professor), you must include the full name of the other person and the date the conversation occurred (or at least a relative idea of when it happened, e.g., last week, when you were in second grade, etc.). These do not count as citations and should not be listed on your “Works Cited” page..

All sources must be cited properly using MLA (please see your Prentice Hall Guide). The readings in the GNED 102 book are chapters in an anthology, and should be cited as such. Every paper MUST have a “Works Cited” section in which full bibliographical information about all work referred to in the paper are listed. Any paper submitted without a complete works cited section and proper citations in the body of the paper will be assigned a grade of zero. No exceptions!

GNED 102, Section 014

Writing Assignment #1 Cover Sheet

Student Name (please print): _____

Grading Rubric

Based on the General Education Writing Competency Rubric

5	Exceptional essay that substantially exceeds requirements. Insightful, logically supported thesis and focus. Original and completely developed ideas. Carefully organized so that all parts support thesis statement. Sentence structure varied with clear flow from sentence to sentence. Essentially free of mechanical errors, carefully edited.
4	Very good essay that exceeds requirements. Thesis and focus are clear, but may not be original or fully supported. Solid ideas but less carefully developed than above. Organization good, but with some weakness(es). Sentence structure somewhat varied but with uneven flow from sentence to sentence. Few mechanical errors, carefully edited.
3	Essay meets requirements. Thesis and focus predictable and/or general and not always supported. Ideas appropriate to subject matter, but lack complex development and/or specificity. Organization present but not fully developed throughout essay. Transitions between sentences and paragraphs lacking. Little variety in sentence structure which is somewhat simplistic and relies on clichés. Errors do not significantly interfere with readability, some evidence of editing.
2	Essay does not meet requirements. Vague thesis and focus. Supporting ideas vague, underdeveloped or inappropriate. Organization inappropriate and/or inconsistent, excessively repetitive. Little variety in sentence structure, lacking transitions. Errors interfere with readability and indicate unfamiliarity with some aspects of Standard English.
1	Essay does not meet requirements. Thesis and focus either missing or contradictory, no evidence that the thesis and focus have been thought through. Supporting ideas underdeveloped, simplistic or cryptic. Reliance on generalizations which may or may not be on topic, factual errors and faulty assumptions. Organization absent. Superficial or stereotypical language used, spoken rather than written language used. Mechanically incompetent.
0	Any of the above essays <i>will</i> be assigned a grade of “zero” if there is not sufficient documentation of source material!

Read and sign the following statement

I (the student submitting this assignment for grading) have read all available material about plagiarism including in the *Winthrop University Student Handbook* and the *Prentice Hall Reference Guide*, and I affirm by my signature that all writing in this essay is my own. I affirm that I have not plagiarized any part from any other source (including, but not limited to, the internet, textbooks and other written material, the work of other students, and lecture notes for this or any other course). I affirm that I have not submitted this work for grading in other course at Winthrop University or any other school.

Signature _____ **Date** _____