

**ENG 1101**  
**Midterm Exam**

Preparation & Examples

# Plan for Success

**STEP ONE:** Prepare article before exam.

- Read *at least* three times.
- Look up *all* words you are unsure of.
- Make notes about main ideas and supporting information.
- **THINK ABOUT IT!** What kinds of questions could be asked about the topic?

# Plan for Success

**STEP TWO:** Memorize the 3 necessary parts of a thesis statement and practice writing thesis statements (use worksheet from class).

- Claim
- Reasons
- Strength

# Plan for Success

**STEP THREE:** Be 10 minutes early to class on the day of the exam. Bring the article, something to write with, and a paper dictionary. Phones will need to be turned off (not just on vibrate).

# Plan for Success

**STEP FOUR:** Manage your time.

5 minutes: Read essay questions & select which question to answer.

5-10 minutes: Plan out your essay, including: identify all parts of the question, figure out claim and reasons, write thesis statement, and determine what to include from the article .

50 minutes: Write essay.

10 minutes: Review and proofread essay.

# **Sample Midterm Exam**

## **Don't Post About Me on Social Media, Children Say**

By KJ Dell'Antonia *The New York Times* March 8, 2016

In most cases, parents and children agreed — don't text and drive; don't be online when someone wants to talk to you. But there was one surprising rule that the children wanted that their parents mentioned far less often: Don't post anything about me on social media without asking me.

As in, no pictures of them asleep in the back of the car. No posts about their frustration with their homework. That victory picture after the soccer game? Maybe. The frustrated rant about the fight you just had over laundry? No way.

Sites like Facebook and Instagram are now baked into the world of today's families. Many, if not most, new parents post images of their newborn online within an hour of birth, and some parents create social media accounts for the children themselves — often to share photos and news with family, although occasionally in the pursuit of “Instafame” for their fashionably clad, beautifully photographed sons and daughters.

With the first babies of Facebook (which started in 2004) not yet in their teens and the stylish kids of Instagram (which started in 2010) barely in elementary school, families are just beginning to explore the question of how children feel about the digital record of their earliest years. But as this study, although small, suggests, it's increasingly clear that our children will grow into teenagers and adults who want to control their digital identities.

“Some children and teenagers question both past and present sharing. “I really don't like it when my parents post pictures of me on their social media accounts, especially after finding out that some of my friends follow them,” said Maisy Hoffman, 14, an eighth grader who lives in Manhattan. “I worry more about my dad. He doesn't always ask if he can post things, so I immediately turn away and ask if he's going to post it. Or I'll find out later because my friend saw something of me on his Instagram and I'll have to ask him to take it down.”

Other parents can also present a problem for the child who prefers to control how she appears online. Wendy Bradford, a mother of three elementary-school aged children in Manhattan, said that when parent chaperones took pictures during a third-grade field trip to the zoo, her daughter “hid when she saw the phones because she didn’t want the pictures to be posted on Facebook with her in them.”

Isabella Aijo, 15, a high school sophomore in Natick, Mass., said, “I definitely know people who have parents who post things they wish weren’t out there. There was a girl in my eighth grade class whose mom opened a YouTube account for her in the fourth grade to show off her singing,” she wrote to me in an email. “Finally, on one of the last months of middle school, a peer played the song in class and almost the entire class laughed hysterically over it.”

Those early posts from parents linger, not just online, but in our children’s memories — and the topics may be things we don’t see as potentially embarrassing. The son of a friend (who asked that I not use her name) still brings up things she wrote about his picky eating when he was younger — years ago, she says.

But that kind of sharing — about food issues, potty training and tantrums — is exactly the kind of sharing that can be valuable. “Children benefit from the community created when parents have the ability to share their stories,” said Ms. Steinberg. Those posts about picky eating might have helped my friend find solutions, or a fresh wellspring of patience for a behavior her child would eventually outgrow.

When parents share those early frustrations, they don’t see themselves as exposing something personal about their children’s lives, but about their own. As a society, says Ms. Steinberg, “we’re going to have to find ways to balance a parent’s right to share their story and a parent’s right to control the upbringing of their child with a child’s right to privacy.

“Parents often intrude on a child’s digital identity, not because they are malicious, but because they haven’t considered the potential reach and the longevity of the digital information that they’re sharing,” said Ms. Steinberg.

At our house, I sometimes see the hesitation in my oldest son, who is 14, when I bring out the camera at a goofy moment, but we have a whole house rule: no sharing images of anyone else without their consent, ever. That trust means I get my candid shots, and he keeps his digital identity, whatever he eventually wants it to be, intact.



# Choose **ONE** of the following options and write a well-developed five-paragraph essay.

[A] In the article “Don’t Post About Me On Social Media, Children Say,” KJ Dell’An-tonia discusses different views about when and if parents should post images and videos of (or stories about) their children on social media, examining the boundary between a parent’s right to share information about a child and that child’s right to privacy

Write an essay in which you either agree or disagree with the idea that parents should follow “house rules” when posting anything about their children (stories, images, videos, etc.) online.

Your essay must present a clear thesis that either defends or argues against a parent’s unrestricted right to post about his/her child on social media, and you must provide details to illustrate your ideas. In writing your essay, you may use your own experience, and/or something you has read, viewed, or witnessed to demonstrate your point. In addition, you must quote at least once from the article “Don’t Post About Me on Social Media, Children Say” to support your claim.

# **Choose ONE of the following options and write a well-developed five-paragraph essay.**

**[B]** In the article “Don’t Post About Me On Social Media, Children Say,” KJ Dell’Anotonia mentions some potential benefits that may occur when parents “share their stories” and post information about their children on social media.

Think about a community to which you belong (for example, a social media network, a class or school group, an organization related to work or religion, etc.) and write an essay in which you discuss a time when you benefitted from hearing about other people’s experiences. Use details to explain how learning about someone else’s situation or circumstances helped you to understand your own challenges, and perhaps provided you with some inspiration. If you like, you may instead discuss how the experiences of a character in something you’ve read or viewed (either in class or elsewhere) had an impact on you in some way.

Whatever example you write about, your essay must have a clear thesis in which you discuss the effect that someone else’s experiences had on you. Be sure to use details to illustrate your ideas; in addition, you must quote at least once from the article “Don’t Post About Me on Social Media, Children Say.”

# **First 5 minutes...**

Read essay questions &  
select which question to answer.

## Let's Pick Essay [A]...

[A] In the article “Don’t Post About Me On Social Media, Children Say,” KJ Dell’Anotonia discusses different views about when and if parents should post images and videos of (or stories about) their children on social media, examining the boundary between a parent’s right to share information about a child and that child’s right to privacy

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# Next 5-10 minutes...

Plan out your essay:

- identify what needs to be answered
- figure out claim and reasons
- write thesis statement
- determine what to include from the article

# Thesis Statement Worksheet

Article Title + Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Claim/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Agree or Disagree? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Claim/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for Your Position:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Statement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Next 50 minutes...**

Write essay.

**Last 10 minutes...**

Review and proofread essay.

**DON'T SKIP THIS STEP!**



# **Choose ONE of the following options and write a well-developed five-paragraph essay.**

**[B]** In the article “Don’t Post About Me On Social Media, Children Say,” KJ Dell’Anotonia mentions some potential benefits that may occur when parents “share their stories” and post information about their children on social media.

Think about a community to which you belong (for example, a social media network, a class or school group, an organization related to work or religion, etc.) and write an essay in which you discuss a time when you benefitted from hearing about other people’s experiences. Use details to explain how learning about someone else’s situation or circumstances helped you to understand your own challenges, and perhaps provided you with some inspiration. If you like, you may instead discuss how the experiences of a character in something you’ve read or viewed (either in class or elsewhere) had an impact on you in some way.

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## Let's Pick Essay [B]...

**[B]** In the article “Don’t Post About Me On Social Media, Children Say,” KJ Dell’Anotonia mentions some potential benefits that may occur when parents “share their stories” and post information about their children on social media.

Think about a community to which you belong (for example, a social media network, a class or school group, an organization related to work or religion, etc.) and write an essay in which you discuss a time when you benefitted from hearing about other people’s experiences. Use details to explain how learning about someone else’s situation or circumstances helped you to understand your own challenges, and perhaps provided you with some inspiration. If you like, you may instead discuss how the experiences of a character in something you’ve read or viewed (either in class or elsewhere) had an impact on you in some way.

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# Next 5-10 minutes...

Plan out your essay:

- identify what needs to be answered
- figure out claim and reasons
- write thesis statement
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# Thesis Statement Worksheet

Article Title + Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's Claim/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Agree or Disagree? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Claim/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for Your Position:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Thesis Statement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Next 50 minutes...**

Write essay.

**Last 10 minutes...**

Review and proofread essay.

**DON'T SKIP THIS STEP!**