

## WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES

### SECTION 1: A RHETORICAL MODES READER

#### Chapter One: The Narrative Mode

##### Process Analysis: Reading 2

Robert Leamnsnson, “Learning (Your First Job)”

*Robert Leamnsnson was a professor of Biology and Director of Multidisciplinary Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. In this widely shared article, he sets out his recommendations for incoming college freshmen.*

<https://www1.udel.edu/CIS/106/iaydin/07F/misc/firstJob.pdf>

#### Questions for Reading and Discussion

- 1) Which of Leamnsnson’s suggestions had you already been practicing as a student in high school or college? Which suggestions, if any, had you avoided? Which suggestions, if any, are new to you entirely?
- 2) Compare and contrast Leamnsnson’s essay about what to do in college with Nikki Giovanni’s “Campus Racism 101.” What is each author’s purpose in writing? What is each author’s intended audience? Write out these two essays’ similarities and differences, and then state how these authors’ different purposes and audiences might account for them.
- 3) After discussing this reading in class, take a few minutes to write out the main ideas that emerged from the class conversation. Do you agree with Leamnsnson that “writing has an enormous power to *fix* things in the mind”?

#### Questions for Writing and Research

- 1) Reread the essay and condense each section into a slogan that captures that section’s main point or suggestion.
- 2) Leamnsnson defines a number of words for his reader. Make a list of these words and write out Leamnsnson’s definitions for them. Then, write out how each of Leamnsnson’s definitions differs from either the “usual” definition with which you are familiar or a standard dictionary definition. If most (if not all) of these words, like “information” and “knowledge,” are words with which college students are already familiar, why does

Leamson take the trouble to define them? How are his definitions important to his overall purpose in writing the essay?

3) Choose one or two sections of the essay and design a handout for your classmates in which you re-present the ideas and suggestions there using both visual and verbal means.



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