Spring 2020, Composition 1121

Prof. Scanlan

Essay 1: My Intellectual Home

This essay asks students to practice these writing skills: description, comparison, quotation, and weaving. First, define and describe your home and your intellectual home. Second, choose two of your favorite readings from class, briefly summarize them (1-2 sentences), and explain the authors’ home/intellectual home. Third, compare homes/intellectual homes among the readings in terms of your own; is your intellectual home different from or similar to the authors’ intellectual homes? Do they share important characteristics? Fourth, students may consider how they could build or revise their intellectual home in order to get the most out of City Tech. Simply put, this essay is meant to help students construct and put into action an academic philosophy for success at City Tech by thinking deeply about the importance of home.

We will use the term “intellectual home” to help us explore the goal of how to make education more meaningful to you through the concepts of people, place, and process. Our basic definition of intellectual home: what person, place, or process helps you to do your best academic work? For example, is your intellectual home your two best friends or the City Tech library or recopying your notes using your favorite mechanical pencil—or some combination of these three? By using the term intellectual home, we will analyze how these writers work to convince you that some aspect of education may be more important than another.

Article Authors:

Sherman Alexie

Salvatore Scibona

Malcom X

Hellen Keller

Bilal Rahmani

Howard Gardner

Alfred Lubrano

Esmeralda Santiago

The following questions may be helpful:

\* What is your actual home like? What is your intellectual home? What is your ideal intellectual home? How does your intellectual home connect to your actual home?

\* What exactly makes the articles that you like so good? Simply put, why are they your favorites.

Your essay will be graded in terms of **FOUR** major features:

1. First Page: A clear introduction, title, thesis, and method (25 points)

2. Formal Writing: Concrete nouns, well-structured sentences, and clear paragraphs (25 points)

3. Articles: Clear exploration of the articles; correct weaving of at least four quotations from the articles (25 points)

4. Personal Experiences and terms: Clear personal experiences: reflections of home, intellectual home (25 points)

Details: This essay must be at least 900 words long. It must be typed, double-spaced, and use Times New Roman 12-point font. Please use spell-check and grammar-check. Use our Standard Journal/Essay Format, which is modified MLA style (see the Purdue OWL on our OpenLab website for guidance).

**Due Dates:**

Feb 24 (Mon): First Draft due in class. Two typed pages minimum. Peer review day.

Feb 26 (Wed): Final Draft Due in class: in folder with process work (drafts) and map.