

Essay 1: My Intellectual Home

This essay asks students to practice these writing skills: description, comparison, quotation, and weaving. **First**, students will define and describe their home and their Intellectual Home. **Second**, students will select two of their favorite readings from class, briefly summarize them (1-2 sentences), and explain the authors' home/Intellectual Home. **Third**, students will compare their Intellectual Home against those found in their selected essays. Two helpful questions that students can ask: is my own Intellectual Home different from or similar to this authors' intellectual home? And what key characteristics do the homes share? **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 an Intellectual Home.

Intellectual Home: We will use the term Intellectual Home to help us explore the ways that people, places, and processes influence us to learn better. Our basic definition of Intellectual Home: what people, places, or processes help you (or anybody) do your best academic work? For example, is your Intellectual Home your two best friends or your bedroom or the City Tech library or recopying your notes using your favorite mechanical pencil—or some combination of these? 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 or more helpful than another.

Example: Salvator Scibona's Intellectual Home consists of the process of reading, the place of St. John's College, and the influence of his teachers and his friends. [students may reorder these to reflect their opinion but must draw from the text]

Article Authors:

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The following questions may be helpful:

- What is your actual home like?
- What is your current 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 essays; weaving at least four direct quotations from the essays (25 points)
4. **Personal Experiences and terms:** Detailed experiences, details 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:

Sept 22 (Thursday): Outline due in on OpenLab; minimum 300 words.
Oct 6 (Thurs): 600-word draft due for discussion and peer review
Oct 11 (Tues): Final Draft Due via BlackBoard