Spring 2018, Composition 1101, D333

Prof. Scanlan

Essay 1: My Intellectual Home

This essay asks students to practice these writing skills: description, comparison, and quotation. First, define and describe your own intellectual home and study habits. Reflect on their benefits and shortcomings. Second, choose your favorite education reading, briefly summarize it, and explain the author’s intellectual home. Third, compare intellectual homes; is your intellectual home different from or similar to the author’s intellectual home? Finally, students must consider how they might 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.

We will use the term “intellectual home” to help us explore the idea of what makes education meaningful to the author and to you. For example, is your intellectual home a group of people or a geographic place or special process—or some combination of these three? By using the term intellectual home, we will analyze how one of these writers works to convince you that one aspect of education is more important than another. For example, does one article contain an anecdote about a special study place with which you can identify? Alternatively, does one essay describe a study process that may be helpful to you right now?

Article Authors:

Sherman Alexie

Salvatore Scibona

Howard Gardner

Wallis and Steptoe

Esmeralda Santiago

Bilal Rahmani

Colin Powell

Alfred Lubrano

Be sure to consider these questions:

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

\* What exactly makes the article you like so good? Simply put, make sure to explain why it is your favorite.

\* What are the most interesting similarities and differences between your intellectual home and the author’s?

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. Article: Clear exploration of the article; correct weaving of at least two quotations from the article (25 points)

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

Details: This essay must be at least 750 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 27 (Tues): First Draft due in class. Two typed pages minimum. Peer review day.

Mar 1 (Thurs): Final Draft Due in class: in folder with process work.