Sample English 099 Assignment on Concepts

English 099
Dr. R. Morris
Assignment on Concepts

Now that you’ve read about concepts in the Choices book and discussed them in class, you may have a few ideas about what concept you want to write about. But in looking at these many concepts, it may be easier for you to work with a concept that has a direct application to your life, to your future academic courses/field, or to your career. Choose one that you are interested in, but try not choose a concept that is not too abstract or too vague or that you don’t know a little about. Your writing Purpose is to explain the concept in detail, give examples of its uses and effects, and then discuss how it is relevant to you, to your friends or family, and to society. You might choose to discuss some of the historical figures or incidents that are most important or connected to your concept, but remember to discuss how your concept is applied/used today.

Think about your Audience. For this assignment, I want you to write for first year college students who are not overly familiar with your field/area/concept. You need to not only explain your concept and discuss its relevance/application, but also convince them that it is important to them and get them interested.

You must have your concept topic approved by me. In doing this assignment (and all assignments you will do), I want you to consciously engage the writing process.

Remember the Invention strategies we have discussed in class. Use several of these—including some you might not usually use. You will have to do some research on your concept and the area it comes from (the sciences, the social sciences, business, or computers). Don’t just use an internet search; go to the library; look at journals relevant to your concept area. Make sure you xerox or copy your information. I will show you how to informally cite these. You will also want to do some interviews with students majoring in that area, with teachers who teach in the area of the concept, or even with people who are now working in that field. As you conduct your interview, take notes or (with the person’s permission) tape the conversation. Do not put off talking to people involved with your concept; their input will give you more ideas to look into as well as write about. But also use other strategies such as clustering or more focused freewriting. I want you to turn in all of these Invention exercises when your final draft is due, so keep/print out/record these.

In moving to Arrangement, think about what areas you want to discuss and how you want to present them. Look at the Writing Process Tip Sheet I gave you. Use some of these strategies to help you find a pattern. I will also give you an Organization Map to help you start finding a sequence or order. Refer to The Little Brown Handbook—especially pages 42-46—for good organization strategies/tips.

I will discuss Revision strategies in class, and we will work on Style issues when you get your Writing Process papers back.

(over)
These papers should be a minimum of 3½ pages long, word-processed, standard 12 point font, double spaced. We will work on all aspects of the writing process in class; we will especially work on development and arrangement of ideas together.

You must turn in all your Invention and Arrangement exercises, interview notes, rough draft, and all materials you have used to put this paper together, or your paper will fail. Remember, you will also be graded on writing process. If you miss days during this unit or come in without your work done, you will lose points.

I will give bonus points to those students who get help in the Writing Center for Invention or Arrangement work. Be sure to take this assignment sheet and have specific areas/problems you wish to discuss with the tutor.

These essays will be due ____________________________.

Writing Center Bonus Points

____________________________________ (print your name) visited the Writing Center on
____________________________________ (write in date), and we worked on

____________________________________

Signed _______________________________________ (tutor’s name)

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