

## Essay I

Your first essay asks you to write a sustained, thesis-based argumentative interpretation based on the material of the first unit: Paulo Freire's essay "The Banking Concept of Education." **Your essay is due October 1 at 12:59 pm. A formal proposal & thesis conference must be made Sept 19-21. A thesis is due in class on Sept 19. Rough Drafts (≥400 words) are due on D2L's Dropbox and Discussion list on Sep 24. Revision conferences are available the week of Sept 24.** Your essay must reflect a critical, insightful understanding of the text and the issues we've read and discussed this semester. Your essay must directly respond to one of the three prompts below; any essay, no matter how skilled, that fails to respond to the prompt will fail.

1. One of the most significant requirements for learning, according to Freire, is the forging of connections, or the making of relations. The easiest way to think about this would be to say that learners must relate the material beyond the classroom in order to apply it. But that is far too simplistic—it ignores much of the importance of Freire's ideas. Write an essay that argues that learning requires a process of connecting or relating, but that this process falls *entirely upon the students*—that it is the most important task of education, but one that must be done by each individual, and can't be done for another. Any successful essay should have a competent thesis and three or four supporting main points.

2. One of the most significant ideas in Freire is the requirement for transformation: it's at the heart of his process of learning, and he uses praxis to link this idea to a whole history of thought. But how does one come to learn praxis? Freire's essay seems mute on *how* this important practice is gained. Write an essay that presents a reasonable interpretation of how praxis is developed by learners, using Freire's essay and your interpretation of that essay as the source material. Any successful essay should have a competent thesis and three or four supporting main points.

3. The relationship of individual to individual is an important aspect of learning—and this essay discusses the relationship between teacher and student as the entry point to learning. It seems to be the most important thing to learning—the beginning of all true education—yet it's not clear how the process actually occurs. Argue that the relationship between teacher and student is so important that it is impossible for the teacher to solve it alone. Instead, articulate a process by which the relationship between teacher and student transforms from one of frustration or inadequacy to one involving mutual learning. How? Develop a thesis using Freire's essay and your interpretation of that essay as the source material. Any successful essay should have a competent thesis and three or four supporting main points.

You must submit a 4 to 6 page essay, of **between 900 and 1350 words**. Essays that do not meet the wordcount **will receive an F**. The essay that you submit should adhere to the standards of college-level essay writing. Your essay should reflect your best work of the first unit of the semester. As such, you should take care that you proofread it carefully. You should also take care that it is polished and refined, representing a serious attempt to complete the assignment. Any essay that represents shoddy workmanship or a lack of preparation will fail on its face. **Late essays will receive an F at best.**

You will be graded on three main standards. First of all, you should present an argument that attempts to prove its main point. Secondly, that main point must consist of an idea that generates insightful perspective onto at least one of the texts we've read. Thirdly, the argument must be written in such a way that it is clear, well-ordered, and well-constructed. Your essay will be judged along three main standards: Strength of Argument, Insightfulness and Sophistication of Main Idea, and Skill of Construction. For more information on standards and guidelines, see the handouts on Argument, Thesis, and Introduction.