Senior Seminar

Essay #1

**Description:** You are going to write an essay that addresses one of the following topics. Choose the one that you think would lead to your best response.

*Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.*

*Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.*

*Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.*

*Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure, or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.*

*A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.*

**Process:**

1. First twenty minutes – Write a thesis statement and three or four specific examples that can back it up.
2. 30-40 minutes to write the essay. We are looking for 300–500 words. Do not surpass 500 words.
3. Read the essay to a partner.
4. Submit

Name

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Essay Review

**Self-Assessment**

Topic # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Word Count:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Strengths of my essay:

Things I am concerned about:

**Peer review**

Reviewer’s name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Read the introduction and answer the following questions:**

* Can you easily tell which essay topic is being addressed? Y or N
* Does the writer have a strong thesis statement? Y or N – If Y, please write it in the space below. If N, please offer a suggestion for one in the space below.

**Read the body paragraphs and answer the following questions.**

* What is the main point being made in the first body paragraph?
* What is the best example that is provided to support the main point?
* What is the main point being made in the second body paragraph?
* What is the best example that is provided to support the main point?
* What is the main point being made in the third body paragraph?
* What is the best example that is provided to support the main point?

**Conclusion**

* Does the writer provide a solid conclusion to the essay? Y or N

**Overall**

* What does the writer do well in this essay?