

ESSAY #1

BACKGROUND:

You have just read Mike Rose's "I Just Wanna Be Average," in which the author discusses his years of "scholastic indifference," and how one teacher, Jack MacFarland, changed his attitude toward education. You are all in college, so clearly you all value education. You must have had at least one person, if not many, who influenced your view of the importance of education. That person may have been a teacher, a parent, a friend, someone from the media, etc.

THE ASSIGNMENT:

Choose one person who has greatly influenced your view of the value of education. In a 4-5 page essay, discuss your view of education prior to this person's influence, and show how your views changed as a result of that influence. Relate your personal experience to those of Mike Rose, discussing the similarities and differences between your experiences with education, and making connections between your person of influence and Jack MacFarland.

Questions to Get You Started:

- What was your educational background before entering college? Did you always know that you would go to college? If not, why? And what (or who) changed your mind?
- Did you ever experience any difficulties in school? How did you cope with those difficulties?
- Who is your person of influence? A teacher? A parent? A friend? Did that person influence you purposefully, or was his/her influence indirect?
- How do your experiences relate to those of Mike Rose?

DUE DATES & REQUIREMENTS:

First Draft with prewriting due Monday, September 12 at the beginning of class. First drafts must be a **minimum of 3 pages**. You must hand in one copy to me, along with your prewriting. You must also bring in copies of your essay for your assigned group members. *Failure to turn bring in the appropriate number of copies will cause you to receive no credit for both your first draft and the workshop.*

Peer Responses for In-Class Workshop due Wednesday, September 14 at the beginning of class. You must bring in your peer responses for discussion with your workshop group. *Failure to turn in peer responses or to attend the workshop will cause you to receive no credit for this part of the assignment.*

Workshop Write-Up with Revision Plan due Monday, September 19 at the beginning of class.

Second draft due Friday, September 23 at the beginning of class. Second drafts must be **submission length (at least 4 full pages, and not exceeding 5 pages)**. You should include your first draft, your peer responses, and your workshop write-up/revision plan along with your second draft. I will provide you with written feedback that you can use to revise for the portfolio.

Note: Make these assignments and class times a priority. **Completing drafts and getting/receiving feedback is vital to your success in this class.** *You will receive no credit for late or incomplete assignments.*

If you have any questions about this assignment, or if you need additional feedback, please come to my office hours, or make an appointment to see me outside of class.