

Essay #2

BACKGROUND:

After reading Mike Rose's "I Just Wanna Be Average," I asked you to write an essay about an influential person who helped shape your view of the importance of education. Since that assignment, we have read and discussed another article about education, Paulo Freire's "The 'Banking' Concept of Education." Clearly, because you have chosen to pursue higher education, you believe that education has the ability to empower you in some way – to get a better job, to prove your abilities, to become more successful in society, etc. – and most educators would tend to agree with you. However, Freire suggests that the current educational system may actually be *oppressing* students instead of *empowering* them.

THE ASSIGNMENT:

Write an essay in which you critique the idea of educational empowerment. Using your own personal experiences, as well as examples from Freire, discuss how the current educational system might be negatively affecting students. Also, discuss possible changes to the current educational system that might curb some of those negative effects. *Your essay should be 4-5 pages, typed, double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font.*

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED:

- According to Freire, what is "good teaching?" What constitutes "real learning?" Do you agree?
- Have you experienced the "banking concept" of education personally? How did you feel in those situations?
- Have you experienced "problem posing" in the classroom? How did those experiences differ from the above?
- What changes could be made to formal education to encourage students to think critically and independently instead of merely accumulating facts?

DUE DATES & REQUIREMENTS

First draft with prewriting due Wednesday, October 5 at the beginning of class. First drafts must be a **minimum of three pages**. You must hand in one copy to me along with your prewriting. You must also bring in enough copies of your essay for each of your assigned group members. *Drafts which do not meet the minimum page requirement will receive no credit. Failure to exchange papers with your classmates on the due date will cause you to receive no credit for the workshop.*

Peer Responses for In-Class Workshop due Friday, October 7 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, October 10 at the beginning of class.

Second draft due Friday, October 14 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 peer responses 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 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 at another time.