

Essay 1 Prompt: Analysis of an Argument in Context

Grading Breakdown: 100 points: outline=10, conference=10, and final=80.

Formal Outline Due: Friday, 2/12 (refer to “Guide to Formal Outlining” on BB for instructions).

Rough Draft Due: Monday, 2/15 (must contain elements of introduction, body, and conclusion paragraphs).

Conferences: You are required to meet with me to review your rough draft (I will pass around a sign-up sheet).

Final Draft Due: Monday, 2/22.

Description:

Building on RWS 100, this assignment asks you to articulate a text’s argument and to analyze and describe its elements. It also asks you to discern elements of context embedded in the argument—the clues that suggest what the argument is responding to, both in the sense of what has been written before it and in the sense that it is written for an audience in a particular time and place—and to evaluate how effectively the argument persuades this audience within this specific context. The assignment will use Kevin Carey’s “Why Do You Think They’re Called For-Profit Colleges?” which examines the growth of for-profit universities. You will also view the documentary *College Inc.* to help establish the context for Carey’s article.

Prompt:

In “Why Do You Think They’re Called For-Profit Colleges?” Kevin Carey examines the growth of for-profit universities. He claims that these institutions need to be reformed, but they also have an important role to play in higher education.

In this paper, you will describe the rhetorical situation and identify the most interesting and important claims made by Carey. You will evaluate how effectively he uses particular types of evidence and other rhetorical strategies to persuade his intended audience. You may examine, for instance, whether Carey uses a particular type of evidence or a specific rhetorical strategy better (or worse) than another. Your paper should evaluate the text in terms of its relative strengths and weaknesses, taking into account the particular audience and context.

Expectations:

5-6 pages

Typed

Stapled

MLA format:

Double-spaced

Standard (1-inch) margins

12 point, Times New Roman font

Works Cited page

Writing Help:

Both Purdue OWL and Raimes’ *Keys for Writers* are excellent references for MLA formatting and academic writing. You may also make appointments at the SDSU Writing Center for additional assistance. If you have any questions, you are welcome to send me an email or stop by my office during my designated hours. You will also attend a mandatory 15-minute conference with me to go over your rough draft.