

Analytic Essay On Life After College

Task

In this paper you will take on an issue **tied to our course readings** and analyze a particular issue, idea, or theme associated with our readings. By analysis I mean, you will do a close reading of our pieces, identify a theme or idea you want to work with, and then create a thesis that **interests you and allows others to understand your interest**. You **will use your experience and our course readings to help you develop a thesis and create a coherent piece that allows you to make your point clearly, in a well-organized and graceful fashion**.

Some things that you could focus your piece on are:

- The theme that “work,” specifically defined by you, is central to a person’s sense of well-being.
- The idea that people should be more interested in finding a vocation or calling, rather than just “a job,” after college.
- The idea that college is, or is not, necessary for people to get a “good job.”
- The issue of a “right” to an education. Does it exist, or should it exist?

Role

You will be writing a piece to try to convince your fellow students of a given point. You need to keep in mind that you must do the following: **create a thesis, create sub-topics, and write an organized piece that makes use of topic sentences and other means of connecting ideas**.

Requirements

This will be a MLA or APA formatted paper, and it should 4-6 pages long. Use a standard 12-point font, and make sure that everything is double-spaced. It should include at least two sources from our readings. **This piece must have a works cited page, which we will go over in class.**

Assessment

See attached rubric.

Hints

- Create a thesis and subtopics as soon as possible and go over them with Chris or our tutor.
- Pay close attention when we go over strategies for structuring this paper.
- Make sure to look at *Starting Lines* for ideas about how to do this sort of paper.
- Make sure to read the sample papers on the website for the class.
- **Do not procrastinate—start writing as soon as you can.**
- When you edit your piece, make sure that you read it aloud. Also, read the paper backwards and forwards—we’ll go over what this means

Due Dates

First Draft: **3/8/07**

Second Draft: **3/15/07**

Possible Topics

You can simply elect to do one of these topics, or you can develop your own thesis. My preference is that you develop your own thesis, based on a close reading of our work.

Topic One: A Calling is More Important Than Making Money

Using *What Should I Do with My Life?* by Po Bronson and a selection from *Gig* by John Bowe, Marisa Bowe and Sabin Streeter, create a thesis that argues for or against the idea that people should be more concerned with pursuing a calling (something you were born or fated to do as a profession) than with making money. Be sure to take a stand on this topic, develop at least two subtopics, and write a piece that uses quotes to thoroughly develop your piece. **Also, see if you can avoid using the pronoun “I” in this piece, but DO NOT do that until your second draft.**

Topic Two: A College Education Helps You Get a Better Job

Using “US Census Data On Earnings By Occupation And Education” and selections from *Gig* by John Bowe, Marisa Bowe and Sabin Streeter, create a thesis that argues for or against the idea that people do better, in terms of getting “better jobs”, if they complete a college degree. To do this you will want to define what a “better job” is in your thesis, create a set of at least two subtopics that you develop in your piece, and then use quotes to develop your piece thoroughly. **Also, see if you can avoid using the pronoun “I” in this piece, but DO NOT do that until your second draft.**

Topic Three: Ethics Matter in Making Money

Using selections from *Gig* by John Bowe, Marisa Bowe and Sabin Streeter and “None of Our Business” by Roberta A. Fusaro, create a thesis that argues for or against the idea that ethics in business matters. Your thesis should define what you mean by “ethical behavior,” and you should then develop an essay that uses at least two subtopics to develop your thesis. You will need to quote from the two texts and create a piece that flows together in a coherent way. **Also, see if you can avoid using the pronoun “I” in this piece, but DO NOT do that until your second draft.**