

EngWr 102

American River College

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EngWr 102 Grading Rubric

An **A-level** paper:

- Addresses the assignment thoughtfully and analytically. Demonstrates a strong sense of purpose and audience awareness and shapes a consistent and appropriate persona.
- Demonstrates a strong understanding of the issues and ideas raised in the texts, effectively integrating and analyzing materials from the assigned texts.
- Demonstrates logical and skillful organization, using effective transitions to connect and develop ideas.
- Demonstrates strong development, providing specific details and compelling reasoning.
- Demonstrates superior control of grammar, sentence variety, word choice and conventions of standard written English with few minor errors.

A **B-level** paper:

- Addresses the assignment clearly and logically. Demonstrates a clear sense of purpose and audience awareness and exhibits an appropriate persona.
- Demonstrates a clear understanding of the issues and ideas raised in the texts as well as the ability to draw upon and analyze material from the assigned texts.
- Demonstrates clear and logical organization, using appropriate transitions to connect ideas.
- Demonstrates clear development, providing relevant details and reasoning.
- Demonstrates consistent control of grammar, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of standard written English though there may be some minor errors.

A **C-level** paper:

- Addresses the assignment, establishing a controlling idea and identifiable purpose. Demonstrates some awareness of purpose and audience though persona may be inconsistent.
- Demonstrates basic understanding of the issues and ideas raised in the texts though it may draw upon materials from the assigned texts with minimal skill or minimal analysis.
- Demonstrates clear organization with few noticeable lapses, adequately connecting ideas.
- Demonstrates adequate development but may occasionally lack relevant specific details or reasoning.
- Demonstrates adequate control of grammar, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of standard written English. Errors do not impede understanding.

A **D-level** paper may:

- Fail to address the assignment directly or clearly; may distort or wander from the assignment or simply summarize. Show insufficient awareness of purpose, audience, or persona.
- Demonstrate minimal understanding of the issues and ideas raised in the texts but may fail to draw upon material from the assigned texts or may do so with inadequate skill or analysis.
- Demonstrate formulaic or inadequate organization, and may not use, or use inappropriately, transitions to connect ideas.
- Demonstrate inadequate development of a controlling idea or fail to offer supporting detail and reasoning.
- Demonstrate inadequate control of standard written English; errors may distract or impede understanding.

An **F-level** paper may:

- Fail to address the assignment in any meaningful way, or fails to address the assignment at all. Demonstrate a clear lack of purpose or audience awareness.
- Fail to demonstrate even minimal understanding of the issues and ideas raised in the texts and fail to draw upon material from the assigned texts or may do so with inadequate skill or analysis. Or fails to demonstrate any understanding of issues raised in the text or to draw from them at all.
- Display random or confusing organization and fail to connect ideas. May lack any organization at all.
- Fail to develop any controlling idea or provide any supporting ideas.
- Lack control of sentence focus or boundaries; serious and frequent errors impede understanding. Errors may even impede communication.

Benchmark Essays

Students' Success

Success... Every person wants to be successful. Every businessman wants to find success in his business. Every teacher looks for a way to become a successful teacher. Every student looks for the road, which will lead them to success in schools and colleges. But many student, teachers and just ordinary people misunderstand the road and the directions to success. Some students might think that they are not smart enough because they don't understand the material they read for the class or the lecture their teacher gave them in the class. But they don't realize that their understanding, their learning abilities and their success are all connected. Students' success depends on how they are studying and which types of learning style they are using. It is very important to for each person to know his or her learning style because it will help them to become active learners and that will lead them to success.

All of today's schools are based on the idea that students can learn in only two ways, or in other words, students have either linguistic intelligence or logical/mathematical intelligence, and if a student is really smart, he or she might have both. In every school and college students are given tests, such as SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), PSAT and IQ, to check how smart they are and how much they know about a certain subject. If a student gets a low SAT test score, well, he is not a good learner than. The students with higher scores on SAT can take subjects which involve more thinking or calculation. The higher score students get, the more chances they have to enroll in a better college or university. This also means that because those students get better scores on SAT and get into better colleges, they will get better job and better life. But this doesn't mean that those who don't get good scores on SAT or IQ

tests are not smart enough to get good jobs or to have a better future. Let's look at this example: one student can't concentrate without music and he always does his homework with the music turned on, but that someone had to take the SAT test in a very quiet place. The results were bad and he got a low score on SAT. Does that mean he is not smart? No, it doesn't. Maybe if he would take that test with music turned on, he would concentrate better and get a very good score. All people are unique and all of us have different abilities to learn and understand.

In order to become an active learner and be successful, you have to understand the types of intelligences find your intelligence and stick to it. The intelligence is defined as the ability to learn or understand. IQ and SAT tests only measure our linguistic and logical/mathematical intelligences. But there are also many different types of intelligences, which can be measured by Howard Gardner's "Multiple Intelligences" test, MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) test, Kolb's Learning Styles Inventory test and the Keirsey Temperament Sorter. In "Multiple Intelligences" Howard Gardner claims that there are more than two intelligences. After reading Gardner's article, I learned that there are verbal/linguistic, logical/mathematical, visual/spatial, body/kinesthetic, musical/rhythmic, interpersonal and intra-personal intelligences. Most of these intelligences are self-explanatory. The hardest ones are interpersonal and intra-personal intelligence. Interpersonal intelligence operates through communication. Intra-personal intelligence is related to self-reflection and thinking. The MBTI test shows us some more types of intelligences. They are extraversion versus introversion, sensing versus intuition, thinking versus feeling, and judging versus perceiving. This test helps people to find out what kind of person they really are. And the last test, Kolb's Learning

Styles Inventory test, introduces few more intelligences to us, which are converger (abstract concentration and active experimentation), diverger (concrete experience and reflective observation), assimilator (abstract conceptualization and reflective observation), and accommodator (concrete experience and active experimentation). All of these tests belong to one of four models, which are the personality model, information processing model, social interaction model and instructional preference model. The Multiple Intelligence belongs to both information processing model and to instructional preference model, because it shows and explains what is the best way students and other people learn and process information. Kolb's Learning Styles Inventory is also an example of information processing model, but it is more complex than the Multiple Intelligence because it looks not only at learning style but also at the process, which shows that people learn through experience. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and Keirsey Temperament Sorter belong to personality model. They look at processes that are used to describe someone's personality. So, as we can see, there are more than two intelligences people have to know about, which cannot be measured by IQ or SAT.

All students learn and understand in different ways. We had a little assignment in class to talk to two students and ask them about one thing they learned to do and how they learned it. Seb told me that he learned how to speak English by watching TV. That means he was using verbal/linguistic intelligence. Heather told me that she learned ice skating by learning movements (body/kinesthetic intelligence), learning through communication with the instructor (interpersonal intelligence), and watching instructor and others ice skating (visual intelligence). Also one student told us that he learned

playing piano by just practicing, which is intra-personal intelligence. I learned the same thing, playing piano, but not just practicing. I had a teacher who was giving me lessons. This shows that I used intra-personal and interpersonal intelligences. So, as you can see, people can learn to do the same things, but different ways. I will show one more example that people learn differently. When I do my homework, everyone must be quiet, otherwise, I won't concentrate really well, but my sister does her homework with the TV on. This shows us that even sisters have different learning styles. Students can use this information to become better and more active learners by just finding their learning style and learning the way their style expects them to learn.

It is very important to know your learning style. A student might be a bad student not because he is not smart, but because that student doesn't know his learning style or doesn't know how to use it. When students know their learning styles they can become active learners. They can learn everything that seemed too hard for them, or those students can understand something they didn't understand before just using the right learning style, the intelligence that is prescribed for them by the nature. And even more, people can make their learning fun. Let's take a look at this example: when a student likes sport very much and maybe he is even an athlete, that person probably will have a body/kinesthetic intelligence. This means that it would be easier for him to learn or do homework while jogging, running or exercising in the gym. Another example is that if someone has a musical/rhythmic intelligence, that person will become an active learner when he or she will turn the music on while doing homework. Knowing their learning styles, students can become active learners and do better in schools and colleges. And when students are active learner, they are on the way to success.

There are more than two intelligences and I totally agree with Howard Gardner that all of us learn in different ways. If a student is straggling at school, it is because he doesn't understand the subject, and that means that that person is not learning it right. In order to become a successful student, a person has to find the right learning style and use it all the time when while studying, doing homework, taking notes, or listening to the lecture. This will make the learning fun and people will like learning and studying in schools or in colleges. And if the students will be active learners, they will be successful students, what means that those people will graduate from college or university, find a job they've always dreamed of and become successful people in their life.

Different ways of Learning

The ability to learn is the most important skill you can obtain. Everyday we face new learning experiences, whether it's at school, at work, or just life in general. But sometimes students just need to figure out how their learning styles work, in order for them to become active learners. That's why professionals, such as: Myers-Briggs, David Kolbs, and Howard Gardner, have created beneficial tests and theories for students to take and read to determine how they can be more active in school studies. Some of those beneficial tests are: "The Multiple Intelligences", "Learning Style Inventory", and the "Keirsey Temperament Sorter".

While reading Howard Gardner's, "Multiple Intelligences" theory students figure out that there are different types of people with unique abilities, and just because you're not good at a specific skill it doesn't mean you're not intelligent. That's what Gardner's whole theory was about. He tried to show students and teachers that people fall into seven types of intelligence categories. Starting with linguistic intelligence, logical-mathematical, spatial, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, and intra-personal.

According to Gardner, schools concentrate on two types of intelligences, linguistic and logical-mathematical; he seems to disagree about that fact because some students may not be that intelligent in those specific areas, specially since they get tested on those subjects during the SAT's. Gardner believes that all the intelligences are important stating, "I am convinced that all seven of the intelligences have equal priority" (Gardner, 329). That's why this theory is beneficial to students because it helps them realize that you don't have to be an expert at everything to know that you're smart.

For example, I have a friend who's really intelligent in math, but he doesn't have good verbal skills. It's like whatever knowledge he has stays to him because he can't explain in words to others what he knows in a way that people could understand. The only way a certain community would be a better one is if everyone uses all their different types of intelligences to put together a better and a more understandable environment.

Another beneficiary factor for students to know what to improve on a specific skill is for them to know their strengths and weaknesses. In other words, if you don't know what your weaknesses are then you'll never be able to improve your skills. David Kolb's, "Learning Style Inventory" is very useful for students because it helps them make career choices, solve problems, set goals, manage others, and teaches them how to deal with new situations (Kolbs, 1). You find all these answers by answering a variety of questions. To show an example, one of the questions said, "I learn best when: I trust my feelings, I listen and watch carefully, I rely on logical thinking, and I work hard to get things done". Then you would have to rate from 4 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. After you answer the questions, you go back and count how many numbers of each you had, and you look for the score, and depending on what your score is that's how you determine what type of a learner you are. When you go check to see what type of a learner you are, it states what your strengths are and then next to it, it shows what you are weak at so you can improve by knowing what your supposed to improve on. For instance, when I took the test I never imagined it would describe me as an accommodator, which is, "People that have the ability to learn primarily from "hands-on" experience, and also have the tendency to act on "gut" feelings rather than logical analysis" (Kolbs, 6). To figure out what my weaknesses were I first had to figure out

what my strengths were. When I checked the test it said that an accommodator was the opposite of an assimilator. So I knew that I had to work on logical reasoning. The best part about this inventory was the last part because it determined what type of job I would be well suited in; it specifically listed Banking as one of them. That was such a coincidence because I am recently working at Bank of America and I do enjoy it. So this test can be very useful for students because it opens a way for them in life, it shows how they are and what type of careers will best suit each specific student according to their teaming styles. For instance, I also asked one of my sisters to take the inventory, so that I can evaluate the importance and accuracy of this test. She ended up being a diverger, which is, “People that view concrete situations from many different points of views” (Kolbs,6). That’s when I knew that this test is pretty accurate, because my sister really likes to view situations in every single way before she makes a decision. For example, couple years ago she heard from her friend that this guy liked her, and before she said “yes” to him she asked every one about him, she even talked to his friends to see what kind of a guy he really is. Basically she wanted to know the pros and cons about him, to decide what kind of guy he could and he could not be.

Lastly, it’s a student’s number one priority to want to learn in this life, in order for them to have and live a comfortable life in the future. It’s obvious that everyone wants to have fun, but when it comes to working hard to get what they want, not everyone works hard enough; but there is a way to make learning easier, “The Keirsey Temperament Sorter”, written by Myers-Briggs, categorizes people into different learning styles together. This test is beneficial to students because it lets students know their interests by asking questions such as: Where do you focus your attention and energy, How do

you acquire information, How do you make decisions, and How do you relate to the outer world? (Myers-Briggs, 8). It also gives to two answer choices for each of the questions to choose from. For example, the question that says, “How do you make decisions?” has two choices for the reader to pick from, either by feeling or by thinking. Right when I finished taking this test I learned so much about the way I think and make decisions.

In conclusion, there are many different ways of determining our learning styles. These three tests were just helpful information to show us that everyone is intelligent in their own ways, and that everyone can be a successful person in life. All you have to know is how your mind generates specific information. These tests can help you do all those things. These tests also show that in order for students to learn they have to be capable of learning also. That’s why the professionals came up with ways to make students try to learn in the ways that they are more comfortable in. Some of the tests also help us improve in our learning styles so just in case if it’s not the way were used to we can adapt to it as long as we find something that interests us. If you want to be a successful person in life you have to have the ability to LEARN.

How Unique are We?

Sometimes we question ourselves by asking, how unique is our intelligence? Determined to find out if our intelligence is indeed unique, we begin to study how we all learn how to work in the same way, for example, we have different ways of processing information, but we learn how to do something the same way, presented to us about how unique our intelligence is, we begin to study many different intelligence tests that are created to help us discover how we learn, feel, and acquire information best. Thanks to intelligence tests, we are able to answer the same question and be comfortable that the person next to you is not obligated to have the same answer, observed we are all able to determine how unique we are when it comes to testing. Now we will review the three tests that we have been examining: The Keirsey Temperament Sorter (MBTI), Learning Style Inventory, and Learning Styles: A Multiple Intelligence Approach. Students can be more capable of getting a more accurate and advanced education if they decide to focus their intelligence and learning styles on a subject in which they feel they have tested best in.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the IQ tests, are two of the most widely used intelligence test, which measures our intelligence in basic skills such as: math, reading, and writing. But how can this test determine how unique our intelligence is if, indeed, we are all supposed to get a perfect score on a test which asks the same question to each individual and there is only one right answer. Howard Gardner's theory on Multiple Intelligence test was that there are at least seven different ways of learning, so these seven different intelligences are: body/kinesthetic , interpersonal, intra-personal, logical/mathematical, musical/rhythmic, verbal/linguistic, and

visual/spatial. However, when it comes to education, society seems to think that there are only two ways of learning and that is through logical/mathematical and verbal/linguistic. This test demonstrates which style of learning best fits us, because intelligence test's could be the best way to discover how we learn the best. For example, if an individual tested high in visual/spatial intelligence you would rely on a teacher demonstrating something to you in a visual and spatial way. We are able to score one out of seven intelligences, and yet we were also able to tie with two or three intelligences. We have very unique ways of understanding our intelligence, and we don't apply them fully unless we have a test that proves to us how unique our intelligence really is. Therefore we begin to form ideas such as thinking or seeing something that nobody else thinks or sees, which brings us to an understanding that we as individuals have unique ways of understanding and figuring things out.

Learning Styles Inventory was an intelligence test in which you rate yourself based on how you feel when you are learning. The four different learning modes are: accommodator, diverger, converger, and assimilator. "In tools to assess students learning style", Croos and Tilson claim, "There is a nursing degree program offered at a community college in Georgia, were students are given a type of learning style inventory tool and once admitted to the nursing program, the information is then reviewed and a program is created based on certain teaching strategies that students need to better assist them" (4). For example, I believe that this is the best strategy that they could start using more often and notice a lot of significant changes in student learning's. This test is also able to rank certain careers that would best accommodate you, based on your learning style. For example, this learning test (which shows us the best way we acquire

information) may really help a student chose a career. If students learning styles were put to the test, then they would make their decision on a particular career less stressful, because they would learn by which learning style they tested best in. If you are an accommodator your careers should be in business and promotion. If you a diverger your careers should be in service and organization. If you are a converger your career should be in technology; and if you are an assimilator your career should be in science. For example, I had my cousin take this test to see what her learning style would be and she tested as a an accommodator and her major is business, this shows me, that these tests are very accurate in figuring one's learning style.

The last intelligence test that we took was the Keirsey Temperament Sorter, which was my favorite. This test consisted of 70 A or B questions, that required critical thinking because you could only go left or right, meaning, you could only answer A or B. You were not able to proceed in a straight path, meaning that you could not agree with both A and B. The report scaled for this test were: extroversion versus introversion; sensing versus intuition; thinking versus feeling; and judging versus perceiving. With this test one was able to score the same on two sensations going against each other. The extraversion versus introversion scale (EI) describes two preferences for where you most like to focus your attention, such as in the inner or outer world . The sensing versus intuition scale (SN) describes which ways you perceive or acquire information, such as how far would you go to find things out. The thinking versus feeling scale (TF) focus on what you do after you have acquired the information, such as what must you do with what piece of information; this information is used to help one reach conclusions, make decisions, and form opinions, describing opposite ways of decision

making and judgments. Last of all the judgment versus perception scale (JP), which describes your lifestyle, how do you adapt to the world and how you relate yourself to it. This test was really interesting because I scored a ENFJ, which to summarize a description of how I tested: EI, I was a outer oriented, expressive, and active person. SN, I was an observing and practical, as well as visionary and abstract person. TF, I was more of a feeling, compassionate, personal person. JP, I was more of a ordered, planned and organized person. The reason that I enjoyed this test the most was because it related to me the most.

Through the testing and evaluating of these intelligence tests, it has come to my attention that they all relate to me one way or another. When taking the Multiple Intelligence test by Howard Gardner, scoring highest in interpersonal made me figure myself out, realizing that this intelligence operates primarily through person-to person relationships and communication. The next test, learning styles related to me the least, because it did not make me realize anything. But this test really had an effect on me when I tested my cousin and it sided with her. When it came to the last test, the Keirsey Temperament Sorter, believing that this was how I acquire my information and relate to the outer world, matched up to my standards so much that I was beginning to think that this test was made for me. I really believe that we all have unique intelligences because even though we have the same ways of begin taught, we acquire, practice, and relate to the information given in different ways. That's what makes each and everyone one of us special gifted individuals, because in one way or another we are all brilliant.

The Real Talk About Consumerism

Lets be honest here, people love to shop. Shopping is something that is inbeeded in our brains since the day we are born, I mean how can we ignore this uncontrollable addiction. As babies we see our parents go to the store and buy something. We might not no what this is when we are little but as we get older we realize that this is something that we have to do. We might not why we do it, but, it something we do because we don't know any other way. Consumerism is something that has to be done buy all humans. With out it there would be no jobs, schools, food, or any other essential thing that we need to live our every day life, but to every good there's also a bad. In 2003 America consumed \$11.0 trillion dollars worth of products, exported \$814 billion dollars of product in 2004 and imported \$1,395 billion dollars in 2004. America consumes more than any country world, but, it is also the number one economy in the world.

People can buy what ever they want in America, thats the beauty of living here. Thats why I think people in America buy more than they have to, it's something that we like to do. Everybody wants to live the American dream and the American dream is living worry free in my opinion. People want every aspect of there life covered. They want to know that there is something out there to solve their problem. This is one main reason why are economy does so well. People are buying more and more and more, so they have to do less and less and less. Companies today thrive off of this catalyst. Have you ever counted how many commercials are played during a t.v. or a radio program. Commercials eat up almost half or more air time than the program does. If you takeout all the commercials in a hour long program your probably left with thirty minutes of the

program at hand. Consumerism is such a big role in the media industry, it's twenty four hour advertising.

Now where do all these goods come from that we consume so much of. Most of them come from over seas countries. The Untied States spends more and more on imports every year. This is due to the fact that American's consume more and more every year. Without this high demand of imports, America would stop dead in it's tracks as we know it. America doesn't have enough man power to produce the high number of product that we Americans thrive for. It's also a good thing that we export and import form different countries. It kind of creates a stability between everybody. We need them and they need us, it's what make the world go round.

On the other hand consumerism also has a bad side to it. Like I said in the previous paragraph, American's want more and more and doing less and less. This is why our country is the most obese country in the world. Take fast food for instant, people eat out more than ever. Most people don't want to spend thirty to sixty minutes cooking a meal when they can spend five minutes in fast food drive in. They know that what there getting is going to be hot and tasty. People have come accustom to living a fast life style. There is no time to stop and think, just enough time to stop and react. If you don't do this your going to be left behind. What I mean by that is if you have a job, you better do it quick and efficient or not going to have a job at all. People don't have the patients to waste time because the time that they waist doing something is time that there losing to do something else. It's a rough world out there and if your not going the same speed as everybody else then you'll always be that one step behind.

However lets not take this all for granted. People don't stop to realize what really is going on in the world today. It's like were always looking in the future instead of living one day at a time. Once we get something thats newer or better we automatically want to know when something better than that is going to come out. I know thats how I am when I buy things always wanna know what better thing is going to come out next. It's kinds like Im. afraid to buy any thing because I know once I buy it something better is going to come out next week. But I buy it any way so I don't have this feeling that Im left behind and Im sure that Im. not the only one that gets that feeling. It's a big game of catch up and it always seems that were always way behind.

I think consumerism has gotten a little bit out of hand over the years. It seems like every year we consume more than the previous year. The rate a which people are consuming over the years is crazy and it's not going to get any better in my opinion. I don't think that there is any kind of solution though fix this problem. People are always going to want bigger, better and faster, it's just the way of life Although there is ways to consume at a efficient rate. I think advertising is biggest problem as in why Americans consume more than they have to. Advertisements make you feel that your always behind in life so you have to buy there product to keep up with society itself. I think thats totally wrong. Advertising should be there help you decide what products you need in your life instead of making you buy there products even though you don't need it.

Rangefinder Essays

College what it is and what it isn't

In today's society when a High school student is getting ready to graduate it is very likely that he or she is also gearing up to attend a college or university. There seems to be certain stereo types or expectations when going into a college or university. Some expectations are to simply get a higher education with little or no fun, and others portray college as a place to go party every night and the school aspect of it is way in the back ground. T.V and movies typically portray college life as the party central of the world. Either one of these stereo types can deter a student from going to a college or university. From the movies and media telling people what college is all about, to just letting you figure it out for ourselves what it is all about to what college was started out, an incoming student will be confused one what to expect and the only way to find out is to go see for ones self.

In today's movies the fun living party seine is what Hollywood seems to base their college movies on. The movie that I watched for this assignment was "Van Wilder". "Van Wilder" is a movie about A seven-year senior who is not even really closes to graduating. It portrays Van as everybody's favorite guy, and the most popular kid on campus, who can throws the biggest parties. This movie in my opinion gives the viewer the wrong attitude towards College. It gives the viewer the impression that this is what college life is all about and it isn't about learning as much as it is being popular and throwing the big parties. I will admit that even know that the ideas portrayed in the movie are pretty far-fetched it still was a funny movie. But if students going into college expect this kind of excitement then they will be disappointed and not want to attend their classes after they find out the truth. In the student survey that we took it clearly showed

that many students going into college either anticipated or wanted the college life to be more like how it is in the movies, with parties every weekend and little to no classes. I believe that with more and more of these college movies coming out the enrolling college freshmen will want real college to be more like the college movies, and will be enrolling for all of the wrong reasons.

In my experience so far, college has been nothing like what is illustrated in the movies and TV. My expectations of college was to first get a better education, which will get me a better job, which in turn will make me more successful in life. Prior to going into college, I too watched these movies such as “Van Wilder”, “Animal House”, and I was hoping in the back of my mind that college life was going to be a little more like the movies. I expected to have a little more of a social life than in High School, and meet more people. As it turns out that I haven’t really met any new people. Instead I am still just hanging out with all of the people I knew in high school. College so far has been more work than fun. One thing that none of the movies portrayed but which every college has a problem with is the parking. My goodness! The parking! Why doesn’t any of the movies show what a hassle of parking. I never expected to have to deal with this. What are the parking passes even for? This is only my experience. I have a very good friend who went down south to attend college. He has said that he has experienced a lot of parties just like the movies. I guess I picked the wrong college to attend, (Just kidding), It may be true that he has experienced these college parties, but he does tend to embellish his stories to the max. I think all of the so-called college movies, tend to do this as well besides, they do make for some entertaining stories.

With today embellishments of college it all started out a little differently. In the past college was meant for only the upper class and the elite students. Today colleges are meant for almost everyone. With the help of Junior colleges more people have better opportunities to get a higher education. It seems to me that college today is necessary to get a good job and be successful in the competitive world we live in. In the article I read "Report dubs '90s 'Decade of the Community College', Reported that "Enrollment at public two-year colleges jumped 14 percent between 1989 and 1999 - vie percentage points above all of higher education, which experienced a 9 percent increase during that same time period", according to the, "Choice of Institution: Changing Student Attendance Patterns in the 1990's report. I believe that Junior colleges today seem to be an extension of high school. This is the route that many students have chosen because it is cheaper most of the time, and closer to the home. Junior colleges are a good way to get the general education out of the way instead of paying the big bucks at a university. I believe with the junior colleges on the rise people look at college much differently. Now it seems that college is not just for the rich or the upperclassmen but for any on how wants to get a higher education. People now do not have to move hundreds of miles away to get a degree but instead just make a small commute. Also with Junior colleges it is easier for older people to go back to school for a degree, with out going to a big university and spending hundreds and even thousands dollars. Which before junior college was just unheard of.

With movies and all the media showing us what college is made out to be we have to learn to look beyond that and see the movies as just that movies and decide for

ourselves and after our own experience what college is all about. If a student does not have any siblings or anyone to explain what college will be like, that student may become stressed and nervous. All they have to go by is what they see in movies and television. If a person is not into the party scene they might think, why would I go to college? But any good paying job you must have a college education And others might see college as a boring place and only sitting in a class room and having no fun at all. This is false in both ways. College is not all about parties or getting a good job or just sitting in a classroom. College is about bettering yourself and getting a higher education for your own self-gratitude, and if that in turns gets you a better job then more power to you.

Sanctuary of My Elementary School

When I was a child, I often heard from my parents that a public school is important and beneficial for all children, and they must attend it even though they don't want it. I was a little bit afraid to go to elementary school and spend so much time there without my older brother, sister, and kind parents who were doing everything me to be happy. Unlike American Elementary, Middle, and High schools which are located separately from each other, our Moldovian Elementary, Middle, and High Schools usually are setting up on the one huge territory of the yard. I was a little seven years old girl when I first time came to school. In that day I was wearing a brown dress, a white apron, and had a big bouquet of brightly colored chrysanthemums which I later to give to my first teacher. The first time I saw my school and my teacher, I had mixed feelings of being happy and anxious. After a while, I have recognized that my elementary school was a safe and enjoyable place for me because there I had many good friends and a nice and intelligent teacher taught me not only basic academic knowledge, but also social skills.

My first teacher Mrs. Lilia was an excellent instructor who had her own way how to conduct the class in order, we, young scholars love our school. Our class always began with an exercise of politeness. With the entrance of the teacher, everyone had to get up and say "Good morning". As many other schools, our Elementary school had many rules we had to obey. For example, we had to come in school on time, to be respectful with teachers and classmates, to be well prepared for the class. Mrs. Lilia often explained us how to behave ourselves in the school and in society. We were treated as adults and individuals. She wanted us students to be enough close to each

other, and be one friendly family. Therefore, we often had different exciting field trips, for example to zoo, planetarium or museums, birthday parties, or just book discussions. She wanted everyone participate the class. Then we had small discussions about famous people, interesting books, and our favorite animals. In such moments, everyone could express own opinion, view, and have a fun time. Moreover, Mrs. Lilia always worried about our grades and was really upset if someone couldn't understand certain stuff. She had explained such students the subject again and gave them an addition chance to make up the tests. Sometimes I didn't have enough self-confidence, and she encouraged and taught me that I could do anything if I tried my best. In comparison with many other Moldovian teachers, Mrs. Lilia was especially kind, friendly and attentive person toward each single student. She had never criticized a student in front of whole class as it did other teachers. I always felt her love and care about me. In addition, she often told us that in order to be healthy, children have to consume a daily balance diet that includes eating dairy foods, meats, vegetables, and breads. I think because of the high level of professionalism of my first teacher, my elementary school was sanctuary for me.

Friendship and support which had existed between my classmates and me were the next important point why my elementary school was a sanctuary and enjoyable place for me. Although I liked all my classmates, I had there two my best friends Lana and Alla who I always communicate with. We often helped each other to do our homework, went to the cafeteria for lunch, and all together cleaned our classroom (that was mandatory). The favorite part of school day was a recess when we could visit our friends from other classes and have social time. We also had outdoor activities and

enjoyed many trees, bushes, flowers, and nice grass that had been growing on school's area. In the winter season, when we had a recess, my friends and I made a big snowman from the snow and had a fun throwing snowballs in each other. I remember one accident that happened with me in one school day. I fell down when I had been walking downstairs and hurt both my knees a lot. Many of my classmates were upset and tried to help me. I appreciated their attention and care of me and also tried to be useful for them.

In conclusion, because of my cute friends and my first teacher who was doing a good job of teaching, my elementary school was a sanctuary and enjoyable place for me. There I obtained knowledge of reading, writing, art and social skills which help me now to build my life successfully and efficiently.

Acknowledging Learning Styles

Let's look into the eyes of a college student who is failing a course. What do you think will become of this person? Is this person using the right method of learning? No, of course not. This person will probably fail that course. He or she need to change their learning style before improving their grades. I hope that this student will not try to negotiate his or her grade at the end of the semester. In the end, students are responsible for their grades. It is certain that college students will not pursue failing. College students should acknowledge their learning styles, so that it'll help gain understanding of their learning preferences.

Many college students prefer the note taking for their learning preferences. Many students have to write down material the instructor lecture in class in order to comprehend. For example, let's implied that these students have bad memories, how then can information be retained? That is when the note taking strategies begins. I like to take notes, so it can be known that I have bad memories. Furthermore, note taking is effective for me because it helps me remember. It helps me remember the materials and information I want to retain, so it is a significance tool to accommodate my understanding. Like *Deanne Spears* "Tools to assess students' learning styles" suggests that people have different ways to process information. It is known as the "Information Processing Models." Likewise, other college students that prefer this strategy would not only have bad memories, but also have a good approach to their learning styles. College students listen to the instructor's lectures, asking questions, and taking notes are all examples of the Information Processing Model. It helps students focus on which method to utilized that best generates understanding.

Most students learning styles reflects from their personality. Memories are great to recall information, but without personality influences, it can be dull. As most college students are aware, there are tests which suggests that personality affect the learning process. For example, the *Myers--Briggs Type Indicator* (MBTI) test expands the focus of the “individual’s personality”(p. 1). It contains four forms, which is introvert / extrovert, sensing / intuitive, thinking / feeling, and judging / perceiving. These categories are title “ personality--type,” describing the processes used to determined how personality contributes to one’s learning situations. Every students, in my opinion, adds a little kick of their personality into their learning styles. That attitude will come to life on one’s writing or mental understanding.

In “Multiple Intelligences” *Howard Garner* refers to all students, with the ability to learn through different unique ways(p.33). I believe all students are intelligent in their own way. As Gardner implied that each person has their own unique preferences. There are many intelligences that Gardner seem to indicate that students have in general. Some of these intelligences identify students with their learning approaches. For example a person high in music/rhythmic intelligence will probably learn by taking notes in class and symbolizing each important information with musical notes or listen to music while they study. It’s an adaptive intelligence for those who are talented in this area.

Another of Gardner’s implied intelligence is Visual/Spatial. Students can remember by visualizing, so in chance that’s how they prefer to learn. Visualizing the lecture of the instructor’s when doing their homework, is one to benefit from their preferred learning styles. Students not only learn by example, but probably are the ones

with great memories too. Gardner's states that Spatial intelligence is to form mental model of a spatial world, and this allows him or her to operate using this particular method (p.329). This part is when visualizing comes to place, and it's like these students have eyes in the back of their heads. Well, rather in their mind that they can see images like the lectures and specific important notes of the instructors'.

In conclusion, college students should acknowledge their learning styles. It will help them to understand the instructor's lectures. No one wants to end up like the particular student, in the beginning that was failing the course. I'm not trying to convince anyone to go take Gardner's Multiple Intelligences test, but for some students, it might just work. Find a method that will help process information to help gain better understanding of the instructor's lectures. College students all want to do well in improving their grades, so find a method that will lead to learning styles preferred.

I remember Going through school feeling scared, confused and always on edge because I did not know how my day was going to turn out, was I going to get into another fight, get put on detention or skip school like so many other days before. I was taught at an early age that teachers were just as scared as I was, and this really affected my ability to take education serious. So for me school was more like the reality show “Survivors’ full of chaos not a sanctuary like Lynda Barry’s.

School was the opposite of Lynda Berry’s, because most of the teachers were just as scared as the students, they did not get involved with personal problems, and they gave students a passing grade so they could move.

Teachers at my school seemed very scared when Latino gangs such as the United Browns made their presence known. It was like teachers did not care about anything especially the students. Coming from a very diverse neighborhood there was a lot of peer pressure, so there was always a lot of friction at school. Teachers did not get involved with any kind of trouble. If students had problems with each other they handled it on the playground at recess or after school.

I remember one time this white kid named jerry had problems with another race and the teacher told him to go tell his parents, and needless to say jerry was beaten up pretty bad. If there was any kind of trouble directed at a teacher they would just walk the other way or direct students to the principle. Mr. White our principle would hit male students with a big paddle or put them on detention. One time I got into a fight with some guy named Ronnie which seemed to last forever, yet not one teacher broke us up or even came to see what all the commotion was about. The janitor was the one to

break us up and sent us both to the principles office. Needless to say that big paddle with holes in it hit us both and that gave me a bad attitude for a long time.

So at a very impressionable age it taught me that teachers did not care about students one way or the other. Teachers in elementary school have the opportunity to make a difference in a child's life and the children today have so many issues at home and at school. Teachers need to be more involved and be a positive role model. School should always be a sanctuary for all students no matter where they come from or where they have been.

While Lynda Barry's teachers were very caring, nurturing and perceptive to the needs of students and their problems at home is very noble, however, teachers from my school did not get involved especially when problems from home were an issue.

Most of the students from my elementary school were from broken homes where they encountered all types of abuse and their issues followed them to school. It would have been a true blessing to have teachers that genuinely cared about children who suffer from all kinds of chaos, at home, school and on the street. Getting involved while children are young is of utmost importance, because teachers can and should be able to intervene or direct them to the right resources that can have a great impact on a child's life. Most of the students who act out in school learned this type of behavior at home usually because there is no structure at home and they turn to the streets to find companionship.

When I look back on how teachers in my school turned their backs on students that were just trying to survive at such a young age really frustrates me, because maybe if some of the teachers would have cared enough to find out what was going on in my

life I might of chose a different path in my early years. Maybe it is not a teacher's job to get involved with a students personal life but I believe that more teachers should be concerned about a child's future after all they are the future.

By allowing students to go through school without them actually doing the work tells a young impressionable mind that they can go through life without being accountable. Lynda Barry's school experience is the way school should be. I really believe in teacher, student and parent interaction, because the child has the opportunity to see that someone really cares about him or her and his or her future. That is very important to a young child.

My teachers pushed me through school like I was on a production line and that really hurt my ability to be productive member of society. Basic every day living skills that I should have been taught at an early age passed me by. I truly believe that if my teachers would have showed me a little genuine concern that maybe I would not have had to get into so much trouble, but I do not blame anyone for the road I chose to travel especially teachers that were just too scared to get involved.

I remember like it was just yesterday that most of the students in my class were getting into trouble just like I was and almost all of them received passing grades to move on. I have never seen a student held back for any type of disrespectful behaviors and to me that is not something teachers should teach students. Looking back at my early years of school I now realize that life is full of choices. Growing up as a troubled youth did not give me the right to choose a life full of chaos. I could have easily chosen to take my education serious like I am today. Always remember it is never too late to do

the right things in life and with the proper education, anyone can make their dreams a reality.

The Role Of Consumerism

The term 'Consumerism' is defined in the dictionary as 'the promotion of the consumer's interests'. However, in society today, it has become much more than that. In the United States alone, we spend seven trillion dollars a year on just stuff. Many other countries think this is an out of control number. While they are struggling day by day, we are out spending trillions of dollars on things that we want. To some this may seem selfish and wasteful, but to others this is how we live. The only way our economy can survive in the world today is if we spend money. Lately we have been over using our freedom to buy, which makes America the leader of consumerism, However, this can end up with negative outcomes.

Looking at the American society today, it is obvious that we over consume. We live in a nation that believes in "having it all". In 1950, families only owned one car and saved for the second. Now, one and five families own three cars or more. (Source: Our consuming interest; Linda Kulman, U.s. News & World Report). What's the point of this? For one, people tend to think that buying is a sense of individuality. No one wants the same thing as everyone else. They want to be like the people they see on TV, which brings up the next point. When you flip through a magazine and turn the TV on, you see Jessica Simpson with a \$1200.00 Louis Vuitton purse and Jennifer Lopez with an 8-carat diamond on her finger. This type of image gives people the thought they need more and they need it sooner. Rather than getting what they see on TV, they'll use whatever they can for the sense of wealth, like owning a credit card. But it all boils down to the fact that we're bred to believe that the person who has the biggest, best, most of

everything is wealthy and happy. We derive happiness from material existence, so we spend money until we feel we are satisfied. In reality, it seems we are never satisfied.

Over the years, America has not only become the economic leader but has also taken a lead in consumerism. By 2003, personal consumption accounted for 70 percent of the nation's gross domestic product. (Source: Our consuming interest; Linda Kulman. U.s. News & World Report). In the recent years, Americans have been consuming a mass amount of personal spending partly because we have been working longer hours. According to Juliet Schor, author of The Overspent American, We are opting for income over free time, and that income gets translated into consumer goods. When income falls short, Americans still spend and fell into debt, which now accounts for about 10 percent of personal disposable income. Another reason why America has taken a lead in consumerism is because buying doesn't have any boundaries. No one can set a limit to what you own and buy. But, one of the main reasons we, as Americans, have taken lead in consumerism is because we have come to realize that the consumption of goods is how our culture functions, Only by producing and selling goods do people succeed in the world, and the more that is produced the more we have progress and prosperity. However, for obvious reasons, Americans have defiantly been over using their freedom of consumerism.

Though there are some positive sides to consumerism, there are also many negative effects. Consumerism has taken place of what was a simple family life, to people working overtime to earn more money to buy more stuff. The more money someone has the more they spend, so people will go out and buy a mass amount of stuff. And then what? They end up buying so much stuff that they end up running out of

room to put the stuff. In the end they end up putting it away in storage. If these products were so essential, then why store them away? People feel that the more they buy, the better they are. If you own a limited edition car, then you have a higher status in life, and everyone will know it. That's what Society has come to.

Not only have Consumers made the country obsessed with buying, the people who contribute the products have too. The contributors make it all possible. Before consumerism became such a big deal, there were only a few of the same products available. It made it so much easier for people to buy products. Now, you not only have one choice of items, but a variety of choices. If you don't have enough money to buy a \$70,000 car, then you can at least buy a lower class \$30,000 car. You can then at least have a taste of the fame and glory of owning a name brand item. Since companies want to be number one, they want other people with the money to think they have a bigger and better product than the other companies. They will do anything in their power to have you buy their product. This is why (when you turn the TV on, or see an ad in a magazine), you see slogans like. "You are in good hands. We care. We are here for you." The contributors want you to think they are the best. But, the only way to survive the world of consumerism is to do whatever it takes to be number one.

The people of the economy have somehow embedded the thought that we need to spend to survive. Without money filtering in and out of the country, we wouldn't have anything supporting us. Consumerism holds up the economy, and, with that, it has given us the strongest economy in the world. However, this doesn't necessarily mean that we have to constantly spend every cent we earn as soon as we get it. Citizens need to learn how to spend more wisely in order to stay out of debt. Since a huge percent of

debt is personal spending, people start having bad credit. And if you have bad credit, then what? Society will do anything in their power to find a way around these problems, such as saying 'bad credit, no problem!' That may not be a problem for them, but it sure is a problem for the person buying. Rather than buying more products, why don't they pay off their debt or (maybe) save a little. Also, having fewer things means enjoying what you have and actually getting to use these things, thereby raising its intrinsic value. I find no point in owning five pairs of the same shoe, but in different colors. Why not just settle for a pair of white shoes that will go with everything you wear? So, the next time you're at the store, debating whether or not you should buy something, ask your self: "Do I WANT it, or do I really NEED it ... ?"

Elementary School

Lost in the sea of faces; food poison; never ending days, that was my experience at school. I went to elementary school in Ukraine. I really loved my school but there were never anything better than my home. Most of the times I felt secure at school and loved but I always felt the difference of love and safety. For some reason I knew really well that “home love” never fails. The school schedule was pretty excited but I adored my last ring bell knowing that it’s time to go home. I remember walking home so fast from school because I always knew that someone was waiting for me at home. My home was and always will be a place where I come to rest and leave everything behind from my long scheduled days. In my mind, I can clearly see a picture of, being lost meeting new people, “good lunches”, and never ending days in Elementary School however my sweet home was always a sanctuary for me.

The number one reason why I was always scared being in school is that I had to meet new people every time. Sometimes as a little kid, I was lost in the sea of faces. To what Lynda Berry noticed in her essay, “The high level of frustration, depression and anger in my house made me and my brother invisible,” was opposite in my life because I was always noticed at home. I never felt safe around people that I do not know. It was hard for me at school because I saw knew face and I would be lost, I could not trust them. Whenever a new teacher would teach me, it would take me couple month to learn how to trust him/her and not to be scared of him/her. I would not feel safe and my eyes were always seeking to find someone who I knew. I met a lot of older people, school staff, that were really strict and mean to me so because of that I would be scared to come up to a new person and especially an adult . However every time I would come

home I felt the atmosphere of love, hope and happiness. I felt secure at home, around people that I always trust.

Another reason why I loved home better than school is because of the food my mom made. My mom makes the best food on earth and it is always so yummy and delicious. The food at school was actually acceptable, not all the times but overall. It was more of a fast food type but I like a real homemade food. I actually took pleasure in sitting with a group of classmates and eat lunch, talk about the games that we played, who won and who is playing next. I enjoyed my lunches until one day I got food poison form a sandwich after that I don't remember eating a school lunch ever again. I felt really sick for couple days and I had to miss school. After that, I would always bring a lunch from home and that way I knew that my mom made it and it is good, fresh and healthy.

Just because it would take time for me to trust people, I was scared being in school. We never had minimum days at my school and the days seemed to flow forever. I would always sit and look at the clock and count hours impatiently waiting to go home. For some reasons school days were so long to me and it appeared as if they would never end. The schedules were fine but most of the times the teachers would make us study and study, and we barely had any recesses. For us as little kids it was hard to take that much information in our heads. In Ukraine, we would have regular six periods for and recesses for fifteen minutes and for us little kids it was very hard. The education level was much higher and harder than here in America. As Berry said that their teacher believed of natural healing power of painting and drawing troubled children, we never had a chance to draw and release our nerves, the only time we could draw is when we

would have art once a week. Therefore, the days seemed so long and we would always be so tired. I was always glad to hear the last bell ring and just run out of class home as fast as I could. It was great having the feeling of relief and being free from school.

Home my sweet home is always a sanctuary for me. It's a place where I would leave my fears and relax. As Barry wrote in her essay: "I was lucky" than in my life I was much luckier. I felt loved and secure at home. I was never unnoticeable at home and I still survived in my school. It wasn't the best experience of elementary school but it was not the worst either. Even though I had fun days at school but it was always better at home to play and with people that I knew. I had "good lunches" at school but the food that my mom made for me was always the best. I was all the time frightened of meeting new people and at home I felt safe seeing my family members. I liked my school and many teachers liked me but for some reason I still feel the difference of love. At school I felt that they love me because they have to but at home I felt that they love me because I am who I am. Home was a place where someone always waited for me to return when I was out. The words: "I miss you Natalya so much" were from the deep inside and not just because it's nice to say it because you were out for a while. Home is my sanctuary.

