

Rhetorical Simulation 1

11/21/2009

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Scenario

In your college writing class you are assigned to write an essay in which you attempt to convince a skeptical reader that college students today are hard working people handling enormous pressure. The target reader is an adult, older than 40, who last attended college 20 or more years earlier.

Given this set-up, choose from the three paragraphs below the best opening paragraph for This essay.

According to statistics released by the US Department of Labor in early 2009, the average college student in the United States today will graduate with \$60,000 in college debt. In order to offset these bills, 70% of American college students are taking on part-time--and even full-time--jobs while studying. By comparison, in 1989, only 30% of college students had employment during the school year. Clearly American college students are under more pressure than ever before.

Anita's day begins at 5 am. She gets up, has a quick breakfast, packs her lunch, and is out of the door by 6 am. At 6:30 am, she is serving coffee at Starbucks. She will be there until 10:30 am, after which she has drive to campus for her first class at 11:20 am. As long as there is no traffic, she will be able to get to school by 11:00. That gives her time to find a parking spot (not easily done in an overcrowded commuter campus). She will be in class for 70 minutes. Then she has to leave this campus and go to another one which offers the course in financial accounting she needs for her degree. She will return home by 5:30 at which time she has to make a quick dinner and then do a few hours of studying before going to bed at 11:30 pm.

People think that college is great but it isn't. I'm never able to get the classes I need. My financial aid didn't come in when I needed it. My advisor has been hard to reach. The classes are almost as dull as they were in high school. The only advantage now is that I have time between classes and I don't have to take five classes every day. Things would work better if they offered more course sections of the classes that everybody needs. And if they were more accommodating about work schedules. College can really suck sometimes

You chose this paragraph.



Now select another paragraph to go with it.

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The work that students pursue now often tends to be more demanding than the employment their predecessors would have pursued 20 years ago. A typical college-student in 1984 would have worked as a part-time fast food server or clerical worker. The 2009 student, by contrast, works at more demanding jobs, such as assistant manager, or simply works longer hours at a more menial job in order to gain the income necessary to sustain themselves. They can expect less financial support from their family because the mother and father are themselves working harder to maintain a comfortable lifestyle for the whole family.

It is rare to find today a college student who does not try to juggle work and academic responsibilities. Add to this the increased cost of college and the rise in one-income families (who have fewer resources to spend on college expenses, especially when there is more than one child in the family). A picture emerges that suggests that college life is no longer the blissful interlude between childhood and adulthood that it was once envisioned to be.

College costs way more than it used to. My older brother went to college seven years ago and he only had to pay half the cost that I have to pay. People who went to college even before that must have had it really easy by comparison. Those older people who complain about lazy younger people should try to juggle the work that we have to do. They probably wouldn't be able to handle it as well.

You chose this paragraph.



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