JASON'S BACK!

100

ASSIGNMENT

His First Paper assignment
What's the purpose of writing a paper?

APA Style?
1. As a teacher, I like to give students a variety of ways to "think out loud".

2. The fairest one to them is an extended writing assignment because it allows students time to think.

3. It takes time to figure out a thoughtful response and craft an answer.

4. I think every time students wrestle with a written assignment, they learn skills that transfer to other classes, their careers and social roles.

5. Some skills they learn are how to:
   1) Encounter and make sense of new information;
   2) Take a position;
   3) Express themselves clearly.
WARNING!!!

READ YOUR ASSIGNMENT CAREFULLY.

ASSIGNMENTS VARY:

1) ACROSS INSTRUCTORS E.G. SOME GIVE YOU A TOPIC; SOME WANT YOU TO PICK YOUR OWN.

2) ACROSS DISCIPLINES E.G. A PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH PAPER WILL AND SHOULD LOOK DIFFERENT THAN A HISTORY ESSAY.

3) ACROSS DIFFERENT TYPES OF WRITING E.G. A SUMMARY HAS A DIFFERENT PURPOSE FROM A CRITICAL PAPER.

UNDERSTANDING WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:
HTTP://OWL-ENGLISH-PURDUE.EDU/OWL/RESOURCE/G88/1/

DIFFERENT TYPES OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:
HTTP://LEARNINGCOMMONS.SFU.CA/STRATEGIES/Writing/Genres-Disciplines
HTTP://WRITING.WISC.EDU/HANDBOOK/ASSIGNMENTS.HTML
HTTP://OWL-ENGLISH-PURDUE.EDU/OWL/SECTION/1/3/
JASON is struggling with how to begin his writing assignment. He sees Jenny on FB chat.

Meet Jenny!

3rd Year History and Sociology Double Major.

Met Jason in 100 level Elective Class.

Super Motivated!

Super Engaged!
JASON: HEY JENNY! NEED YOUR HELP! STUCK WITH THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT. DON'T KNOW HOW TO START.

JASON: #$%&&! PANIC!!! HELP. U THERE?

JENNY: DON'T PANIC! HAVE YOU READ THE ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS?

JENNY: HEY, YOU THERE?

JASON: YEA... I AM HERE. SORRY. WAS CHATTING WITH ANOTHER FRIEND ABOUT DINNER PLANS! LOL!

YA. ALREADY READ THE REQUIREMENTS.

JENNY: CHILL OUT, DUDE! THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BEGIN. I ALWAYS BEGIN BY PAYING CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT THE ASSIGNMENT IS ASKING ME. AND THEN I MAKE A WORK PLAN.

JASON: WORK PLAN? HUH?

JENNY: CHECK SFU CONNECT. I WILL EMAIL MINE TO YOU FOR THE ASSIGNMENT DUE NOVEMBER 15.
UPON RECEIVING ASSIGNMENT:
- Understand the topic, the sources I am to use, the audience I am writing for.
- If I am unclear of the assignment requirements, I clarify with my TA or instructor.

THREE WEEKS BEFORE DUE DATE:
1) Collect my sources, and review them and my notes. Then I fill out these sentences:
   A) "I am being asked to..."
   B) "My claims are..."
   C) "My evidence is..."
   D) "Something I need clarification on is..."

I then email my instructor/TA these sentences and meet with him/her to make sure I am on track.

10 DAYS BEFORE DUE DATE:
Start writing a "garbage" draft. I write down absolutely everything I think might end up in my final draft. I don't worry about spelling, grammar and punctuation. The point is to get all my thoughts, the quotes and examples I want to use, the lines of logic etc. on to paper. That way, I can organize my thoughts better. After I complete the garbage draft, I take a break for a day or two.

7 DAYS BEFORE DUE DATE:
Plan another writing session. Begin by re-reading my garbage draft and assignment. Pick out the parts of my draft I want, and play around with the structure of the paper.
   A) Which section goes first? Do my ideas flow logically?
   B) Do I need a thesis statement? If so, do I have one?
   C) Write the next draft.

5 DAYS BEFORE DUE DATE:
Write another draft. Review the second draft and the assignment requirements. Do I meet all the requirements? Check the structure and logical flow of the paper. Perform a spelling and grammar check.

DUE DATE:
Turn it in. Celebrate!
JASON AND JENNY RECEIVE A TEXT FROM JOEY T.

HE'S REMOVED HIS FACEBOOK PIC LATELY AND REPLACED IT WITH THE CANUCKS LOGO.

JENNY AND I WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT T. STANDS FOR.
TOTAL PARTY ANIMAL.
BEER ENTHUSIAST.
THROWS AWESOME PARTIES!

JASON: HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR PAPER?

JOEY T: COME PARTY!
HALLOWEEN BEER PONG!

JOEY T: SCREW THE PAPER. BUY ONE ONLINE.

A FEW MINUTES LATER, WE FIND THIS AS HIS FACEBOOK PROFILE PIC!
MAN... I SO FEEL LIKE BUYING A PAPER ONLINE!

THREE-WAY FB CHAT

JOEY T.: X**%# SCHOOL WORK DUDES! YOU GOTTA SEE MY COSTUME! IT'S THE S**T.

JASON: JENNY, I LIKE JOEY T'S IDEA ABOUT PAPER BUYING!

JENNY: THAT'S A REALLY BAD IDEA. BOTH OF YOU, CHECK THIS OUT:

HTTP://WWW.LIB.SFU.CA/HELP/TUTORIALS/PLAGIARISM-TUTORIAL

JENNY TEXTS JASON AND JOEY T. THE WEBSITE FOR SFU'S PLAGIARISM TUTORIAL.

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Plagiarism Tutorial - Home Page

The Plagiarism Tutorial consists of four parts. A new browser window will open when you

1. Plagiarism Tutorial - Part 1: Introduction
2. Plagiarism Tutorial - Part 2: Citing
3. Plagiarism Tutorial - Part 3: Writing Skills
4. Plagiarism Tutorial - Part 4: Conclusion

Complete each part of the plagiarism tutorial in its entirety before proceeding to the next part.

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JASON LOOKS AT JENNY’S WORK PLAN. SHE STARTS BY LOOKING CAREFULLY AT WHAT THE ASSIGNMENT IS ASKING FOR. THIS INCLUDES THE FORMAT OF THE ASSIGNMENT. HE REMEMBERS A WEBSITE HIS PROF GAVE HIM ABOUT DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASSIGNMENTS: HTTP://WRITING.WISC.EDU/HANDBOOK/ASSIGNMENTS.HTML

FROM THE WEBSITE, HE LEARNS THAT ALL WRITING HAS A PARTICULAR CONTENT, AUDIENCE, AND PURPOSE. HOWEVER, THESE VARY ACROSS AREAS OF STUDY AND INSTRUCTORS.

COMMON TO ALL THE ASSIGNMENT TYPES IS A GUIDING IDEA OR THESIS STATEMENT. IN HIS TUTORIAL NOTES, JASON SEES: "WELL STRUCTURED ACADEMIC WRITING MEANS THAT EVERY SINGLE IDEA IN YOUR PAPER SHOULD BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE GUIDING IDEA OR THESIS STATEMENT."

JASON DECIDES TO START BY WRITING A WORKING THESIS STATEMENT.
It is the single most important sentence in the essay, and everything you write in the body of the essay must directly relate to that sentence. Here are some tips on writing a thesis: first, it must be an arguable statement. It cannot be a question. "Was Coriolanus's disdain for the people the cause of his downfall?" is not a thesis. "Coriolanus's disdain for the people was the cause of his downfall" is a thesis. This does not mean that every thesis must offer a cut-and-dried, black-or-white position. You can forcefully argue a middle position: "Brutus is neither a good man or an evil one" needs proving just as surely as "Brutus is a hopeless idealist" does. (There are more tips at this prof's website: http://www.sfu.ca/personal/budra/course%20material.htm)

JASON FEELS MORE PREPARED TO BEGIN AND DRAFTS A WORK PLAN.

1) REVIEW ASSIGNMENT & BRAINSTORM:

   A) FREEWRITE A "GARBAGE" DRAFT OF ALL MY IDEAS.

   B) DRAW A CONCEPT MAP. IDENTIFY MY MAIN ARGUMENT OR A WORKING THESIS.

2) REVIEW READINGS. DID I CATCH THE MAIN POINTS?

3) REVIEW ASSIGNMENT AGAIN: AM I DOING WHAT I AM ASKED TO DO?
Jason begins freewriting. He thinks about his audience and the assignment topic.

He tries to put some of his ideas into a concept map.

He writes an outline and creates an essay map.

He goes back to freewriting.

As Jason goes through step 1 to 4, his ideas become clearer to him.

He realizes writing involves a) thinking carefully and critically b) organizing and his ideas and c) revising his writing so that his thoughts are clearly communicated.
He revises his garbage draft to check "Did I answer the question?" "Am I using the right sources?"

Visits the Student Learning Commons for peer writing help.
Visit: http://learningcommons.sfu.ca for writing and learning support.

Jason gets feedback from his TA.

The next draft:
Given feedback from the Learning Commons and his TA, Jason rewrites a more polished paper.

Remember you are writing for an audience and for a purpose.

What Jason has learned:
The earlier I start, the better my writing becomes.

It's normal to get stuck when starting.

It's normal for my ideas to change while writing.

It's normal for writing to need a few drafts.

Submits his assignments
TEN DAYS LATER....

JASON: Hey you! Thanks for your advice. I learned a lot from the writing process. I did well too!
We should celebrate. Let's do dinner soon.

JENNY: So relieved you didn't buy a paper. We should celebrate! You are not the only one who did well ;p
Let's invite Joey T. too!

JOEY T.: Hey guys, need to chat. Can we meet for drinks?
I flunked my class. $#@!
My TA caught me for academic dishonesty. Lots of trouble!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!
COMPLETE OUR SURVEY!!

https://websurvey.sfu.ca/cgi-bin/webobjects/websurvey-woa/wa/survey?123593576

JENNY RECEIVES A TEXT FROM JASON.

STAY TUNED. MORE JASON EPISODES COMING TO YOU IN SPRING 2013.
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