

English 101

Essay #3: Education

Essay Length: 1000-1250 words (3-4 typed pages)

Background

John Gatto claims that the purpose of education is to create the obedient workers (not leaders) of the future. Jean Anyon's research detailing the different kinds of education that different social classes receive would seem to provide scholarly backing for Gatto's claims, and Jonathan Kozol shows that the argument can be extended beyond social class to race. But is this dark vision the only one available? While this may be the purpose of education as defined by the educational system itself, what do students think the purpose of education is?

Topic

Write an essay in which you explain what you believe the purpose of education should be, and explain how your ideas are in agreement or at odds with your experience of the educational system.

- Be sure to clearly state your point of view early in the essay and back up key ideas with specific information and examples.
- You should make use of information and ideas found in at least two of the readings associated with this topic. You can choose from any of the following:
 - "The Seven-Lesson Schoolteacher" by John Gatto
 - From *Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work* by Jean Anyon
 - "Still Separate, Still Unequal" by Jonathan Kozol
- You might want to paraphrase or directly quote from these essays to provide yourself with someone to argue against, or to support some point you wish to make.
- Of course, you can always support your own ideas with examples from your own personal experience, but remember that you should not rely exclusively on such anecdotal evidence.

Hints

1. Read the topic a couple of times and note what it requires you to do. Complete all the tasks of the assignment.
2. Take time to plan and organize your essay before you begin to write. (Scratch outlines are often quite helpful.)
3. Be sure to start with a clear main idea. (In other words, make sure you can answer this question: "What is the main point I want my readers to understand?")
4. Make sure that you support or illustrate general points with specific examples and vivid details from your own experience and from the text (when appropriate).
5. Allow yourself enough time after writing to go back over your essay, check for errors or omissions, and make any necessary corrections.