

ENC 0025 -- Paper #1—The Hardest Thing about College

This paper should be 400-500 words, following the paragraph length (0025: 135-160 words) we learned in class. When organizing it, think of the five-part structure based on three and the basic Harvard outline format that helps to organize that structure.

Your assignment is to compose an essay that argues the answer to the following question:

What is the hardest thing about college?

Think about this before you answer it, and brainstorm a bit. However, remember five-part structure based on three. Simply saying what the hardest thing is will not be enough for a full essay. You need to develop and support your answer.

The answer to your question will require support—three reasons why that ONE thing is the hardest. REMEMBER: I am not asking you to name three hard things about college. I am asking, “What is the hardest thing about college (and give me three reasons why that ONE thing is the hardest thing).” The key here is to stay focused and specific, not spread out and shallow (as your high school teachers may have taught).

Start with your THESIS STATEMENT (“Thesis” for short). Answer the question in one sentence: “The hardest thing about college is _____ because of _____, _____, and _____.”

Remember Assertion, Evidence, and Importance. Your Thesis is the big assertion of your paper. Each point you make is the evidence, and your conclusion is the importance. However, in each point, you have smaller assertions that support your big assertion. Each of those small assertions also require evidence and importance as well.

Be sure to have a typed, printed, full first draft by Tuesday at the start of class for Peer Review. It should be in proper format, proofread, and be the best example of your work at that point. There are no “rough” drafts—there are only first drafts. You cannot get better unless you bring your best work already. It is not the peer reviewer’s job to help fix things you can already do on your own.

I. Introduction

a. General intro

b. Thesis Statement: _____

II. Point 1: _____

a. Assertion: _____

b. Evidence: _____

c. Importance: _____

III. Point 2: _____

a. Assertion: _____

b. Evidence: _____

c. Importance: _____

IV. Point 3: _____

a. Assertion: _____

b. Evidence: _____

c. Importance: _____

V. Conclusion

a. Sum up/Recap points 1, 2, and 3.

b. State the importance of the thesis. Why should the reader care about what you just made them read?

