

English 101 Essay 3: *Your Life After Graduation: The 10 year professional and personal plan*

Over the last three months you have spent time thinking about your own goals, learning about a liberal arts education, writing in the disciplines, and researching your majors and careers. It is now time to pull all of that knowledge together along with your writing skills and compose a final project that demonstrates what you have learned and reflects critically on your future. For this final essay you will compose a personal and professional plan for the ten years of your life after graduating college.

The project is broken into the following steps:

1. **Audience Analysis** (see schedule for due date): for this project you are your audience which means you need to think about what you want your life to look like 15 years from now. Write a 1-2 paragraph analysis of what your life looks like 15 years from now both personally and professionally (family, health, career, home, hobbies, etc). What had to be accomplished for you to achieve that life?
2. **Research Discussions** (See Schedule for due date)- you will conduct research to prepare for writing your paper. In your writing groups you will discuss the types of research you have found, how useful it is, and what struggles you are encountering. The research for your 10 year plan should focus on the following:
 - a. Personal
 - Geographic living area
 - Housing (type and cost)
 - Living Expenses
 - Activities
 - Family
 - b. Professional
 - Career position
 - Education
 - Work environment
 - Job location
 - Salary and benefits
 - Career advancement opportunities
 - Risks, Hazards, Concerns

- Day to day work- what is it like? Why will you like it?
3. **Outline** (see syllabus for due date)- your outline should be a detailed document that shows the main points of information you will include in your 10 year plan essay, what evidence you have for support, and how it will be organized. We will discuss what the purpose of outlines are and how to construct an effective one. I cannot give you a page requirement as it will be different for everyone depending on their own goals and evidence found but the document should be a full, detailed outline.
 4. **5-6 page 10 year plan essay workshop and final draft** (see schedule for due date)- The final essay should detail what your life will look like in 10 years after graduation from college both personally and professionally. It should include evidence and examples that show how you realistically achieved this life. It must also include at least two meaningful visuals such as images, charts, graphs, etc. that support your plan. Please include a works cited page in either MLA or APA format.

Form: This is an informative research essay that is also personal and is suitable for using a narrative style. While it is an essay that will have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion, because of the many components you may find using sections and subheadings are useful.

Thesis: Your thesis for this essay should be what your personal and professional goal is for your life ten years after graduation from college. Your essay will then support that with research and examples.

Audience: Your audience for this essay is yourself 15 years in the future. Think about the goals you have for yourself and how you can realistically accomplish them. Since you are writing about what your life looks like in the future, you should write as though it is the future and you have already accomplished these things.

Brass Tacks

- Includes all components: audience analysis, research discussion notes, outline, and paper
- 5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12pt readable font.
- Uses MLA or APA formatting and Citation
- Designs a 10 year life plan and supports with evidence

Possible Resources

- ❖ University and academic department websites

Adapted from Elizabeth Tasker Davis

- ❖ Websites and journals for professional associations
- ❖ Company publications
- ❖ Job postings
- ❖ Career databases
- ❖ Chamber of commerce websites
- ❖ Town or city websites
- ❖ Economic reports
- ❖ Interviews
- ❖ Government

How I will Evaluate Your Essay

I am using something called "spec" grading to evaluate and assign a grade for your essay draft. The grade is the result of quantity--or just doing what I'm asking you to do--and to a lesser extent, quality. As explained in the syllabus, your work on your essay draft will determine 10% of your final grade for each one, 30% total.

In order to earn a "B" grade for that 10%

- You must complete the analysis, research discussion, outline, workshop draft, and final draft
- Respond to the prompt.
- Write an essay that is at least five pages . It can be over. It can't be under.
- Use examples from primary and secondary sources
- Includes at least two visuals
- Uses MLA or APA properly with few errors
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion

In order to earn an "A" grade for that 10%

- You must complete the analysis, research discussion, outline, workshop draft, and final draft
- Respond to the prompt fully.
- Write an essay that is five to six pages .
- Use examples from primary and secondary sources in detail.
- Includes at least two visuals that are meaningful to the content.
- Uses MLA or APA properly with no errors.
- Have a thesis, introduction, and conclusion

Adapted from Elizabeth Tasker Davis

In order to earn a "C" grade for that 10%

- You must complete the analysis, research discussion, outline, workshop draft, and final draft
- Respond to the prompt, but not fully.
- Write an essay that is less than five pages .
- Use examples from primary and secondary sources but they lack detail
- Does not include at least two visuals
- Uses MLA or APA but with many errors
- Is missing a thesis, introduction, and/or conclusion

If you do not meet the requirements for a "C" paper, you will fail the paper for that 6.25% of your grade.