

Academic Writing Sample

The purpose of this essay is to help faculty better understand your ability to think critically, use evidence to support claims, and write clearly and effectively to convey your ideas. You may not submit a paper that you wrote before. As you write, please be sure to refer to specific evidence from the artifact (video or written piece) you choose to respond to, as well as outside sources (published or your own experience). There is no set page expectation, though most essays fall within the 500-1000 word range. Please cite your sources and include a reference list, as applicable.

Step One:

Choose one of the following four videos or written selections upon which to base your response:

1. Video: *The Danger of a Single Story*, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche: https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story “Our lives, our cultures, are composed of many overlapping stories. Novelist Chimamanda Adichie tells the story of how she found her authentic cultural voice -- and warns that if we hear only a single story about another person or country, we risk a critical misunderstanding.”
2. Video: *Day 2: Helping Students Explain and Defend their Answers*, produced by Inside Mathematics: <http://www.insidemathematics.org/classroom-videos/building-classroom-climates-for-mathematical-learning/elementary/engaging-in-mathematical-discourse/day-2-how-do-we-know-what-are-the-pieces-we-saw> “Using Precise Language: “Mia engages her students in ‘understanding that they have to explain themselves.’ She facilitates a conversation in which elementary students explain and defend their answers, so that collectively they can find the answer they can ‘prove is right.’”
3. Written Article: *Schools Need to Pay More Attention to “Intelligence in the Wild”*, by David N. Perkins. In this brief article, Perkins lays out an argument for going beyond teaching children to solve clearly defined problems. Rather, he argues, students should be able to identify and address problems as they occur in the “wild” of everyday life, and teachers should teach them to do so.
4. Written Chapter: *The School and Social Progress*, in *Education and Society*, by John Dewey. In this article, theorist and educational researcher John Dewey discusses the role of the school in larger society.

Step Two:

Respond in writing to the following: What evidence can you identify within the video or reading that you selected that connects with your current understanding of educational research, theory or experience? Select one or more of these three response options. **IMPORTANT: Indicate on the first page of your paper which prompt, below, you are responding to.**

- If you respond based on educational research, please cite the research to which you refer.
- If you respond based on theory, please cite specific theoretical readings.
- If you respond based on educational experience, please give explicit, concrete examples.