**Essay #1: Student Motivation and Intelligence**

**Due Dates:**

* Outline – Due
* First Draft – Due
* Final Draft – Due

**Background:**

Congratulations, your test scores have qualified you to be in a new course here at HCC that will allow you to bypass any developmental instruction and go right into a college-level course with extra support. In the short time we have offered this class at HCC, we have noticed an overwhelming trend. Your own motivation plays as big a role in your ability to pass this class as does your intelligence.

To that end, we will begin the semester considering what motivates any person to success. You will be introduced to the book “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind,” which is the true story of the author, William Kamkwamba, who overcame crippling adversity to change not just his own life, but the lives of those around him. We will read articles about what is known about the role of motivation and we will talk about your own experiences. All of this will contribute to your first essay and hopefully your own success in this course.

**Topic:**

In this essay, you will explore your own sources of motivation past, present and future as they relate to this course and your journey at HCC.

After considering your motivation, complete the steps in the writing process to create a fully developed essay that

* Identifies the things that have motivated you in the past and how effective they have been
* Indentifies what you have learned about motivation through our readings and discussions in this class.
* Uses examples from your life to show how motivation or lack there of has helped or hurt you in your life.
* Explains what your plan is to stay motivated for this course and your college career.

Remember, your readers know nothing about your life, it is your job to make the details clear, complete, and interesting. Include in your essay,

**Introduction**

The introduction has two purposes: pull your readers into the essay and provide a clear thesis statement. Ideas to consider in creating your thesis:

1. Explain a time when you had great success or failure and what your motivations were.
2. Consider individuals who have had great success and what their motivations were.
3. End with a clear thesis statement that either compares your sources of motivation in the past with what will motivate you going forward or simply states what will make you motivated and/or successful at HCC.

**3-5 Body paragraphs**

The body of the paper is the heart of the essay. This is where you explain in detail the effect of motivation on your life. Every body paragraph must have:

* a topic sentence that identifies what the paragraph is about.
* 2-3 examples. These examples can be specific moments in time from your life, or stories you know about others or quotes from the articles we have read.

**Conclusion**

The conclusion is your opportunity to pull the essay together and leave your readers with something to think about. For your conclusion,

1. Consider your past and where you have come from.
2. Look into the future: Predict how what you have learned about motivation will propel you forward.
3. Tell a story of how you have succeeded already.

**Additional requirements**

Your essay must be clearly organized, fully developed, and at least 750 words (3 typed pages, double spaced). Work hard to make sure you have included detailed explanation, description and examples to support each topic sentence. Proofread carefully to be sure that your essay:

* is written in clear, complete sentences.
* has been spell-checked.
* has been proofread.
* is typed and double-spaced.

| Criteria | Pts |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Introduction paragraph leads naturally to thesis (10 points) | 10 pts |  |
| Thesis statement at end of introduction clearly and specifically sums up what the essay will be about (10 points) | 10 pts |  |
| The essay is clearly organized, with main ideas in topic sentences of paragraphs, and supporting details that all relate to topic sentences (25 points) | 25 pts |  |
| Detailed support in the form of LOTS of stories, examples and details. (25 points) | 25 pts |  |
| Thoughtful conclusion (10 points) | 10 pts |  |
| Correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling, with very few errors (20 points) | 20 pts |  |
| Total | 100 pts |  |