English 121

Prof. Garner

# Diagnostic Writing

**Length and Format:**

* Typed, double-spaced
* Multi-paragraph essay including introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion
* 1-2 pages

**Purpose:**

* To identify writing strengths and weaknesses
* For the instructor to learn more about individual students
* For the students to begin to identify academic goals and plans

**Topic:** In our first class we set up expectations for ourselves. We identified many qualities which would define a successful student as well as a successful instructor. In a well-organized essay, discuss which attributes you feel are most important to becoming a successful student and how you as a student plan to be successful. In addition, you may choose to discuss how being a successful student differs at the college level, vs. high school. Use examples to support your thesis. Your essay should reflect your personal thoughts on being a student.

Of course, the other goal of this essay is to have you demonstrate the best writing you can do at this point so I can do an accurate assessment of what you need to learn and practice in order to write academic essays. You should reflect on what you know about well-written essays and be sure to include these elements in your essay. In particular, make certain that you have meaty, well-developed and well-organized paragraphs.

**Method:** Before you begin writing, you may wish to take a few minutes to think about the topic and sketch out a rough outline for yourself to aid in the writing process.

**Good Teachers**

* Offer 1 on 1 help
* Funny
* Know Their Subjects
* Relaxed – not high strung
* Approachable
* Relatable
* More than just lecture
* Treat students equally
* Don’t call students out in public
* Help you reach your potential

**Good Students**

* Organized
* Respectful
* Listen
* Works well with others
* On time
* Ask questions
* Bring materials
* Don’t use cell phones in class
* Study
* Intellectual
* Curious
* Be an adult