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ENGL1180

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Purpose and Problem Statement

Purpose of the Course

ENGL 1180 has students think about a topic before they begin writing. The course connects the ideas of different people. It requires student to ask their own questions and maybe think of them thoroughly and to come up with answers. It asks student to communicate with each other to get better ideas. The course uses a “they say / I say” model to help create a “we say.” Connecting “they” and “I” to produce a “we say” becomes easier when we use specific tools: TEQ Sheets, Purpose & Problem Statement, and a Prospectus. This helps us recognize the difference between writing-to-learn and writing-to-communicate.

Purpose of the Assignment

Project #1 teaches us how to use the tools (listed above) to address the issues we’ve had with writing instruction. These include both the way students are taught (no collaboration; five-paragraph papers, no claims) and the stupidity of the topics. The topic for this paper is an introduction to the “they say” about class and education. It is the basic idea that will grow throughout the other projects of the term.

Problem Statement

Why are schools teaching students ways of writing that aren’t appropriate to college? Why are the schools of the more advantaged class teaching them different things; isn’t education supposed to be equal? What do colleges think of students being taught to write as they are in high schools? If money is being spent on these ineffective programs, who is benefitting from them? Do high schools know that colleges don’t accept this kind of writing? What types of writing could be introduced in school to keep students interested? Not only are there differences in class, but geography also plays a big role in differences; why are things so variable by state and locality? What are students’ opinions about learning things that don’t apply in college? Why do high schools teach things like the five-paragraph paper if they know it doesn’t work?