Paper 1 – Diagnostic Essay

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English 1310
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We all come from different backgrounds with widely varying life experiences. Similarly, we all have our own reasons for attending college. Some students go to college because, as Shaun Brumder says in the 2002 film Orange County, “that’s just what you do after high school!” Write an essay in which you explain what you think college is for. What is the purpose of higher education?

Format:
• Write legibly in pen on every other line.
• Write on one side of the page (use the back for additions and revisions).
• Length: about 3-5 handwritten pages. It should be an academic essay with a thesis, 2-3 main points, and a conclusion. I expect you to use the majority of class time to complete the essay. Give your completed essay a title.
• Be mindful of spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Tips:
This essay should not be a narrative! Don’t tell me a story; write me an essay. Your essay should not be interchangeable with any other student’s. It should be so specific it could only be yours. For example, don’t say you are attending a university because you want a “good job.” Everyone in class could say that. Dig deeper. Push your ideas further and get more specific.
Don’t write what you think I want I hear. Write the truth: it’s far more compelling.

If you finish early, re-read your essay and use the back of the pages for any revisions you would like to make.