Paper 1
English 1310

Students decide to attend a University for many reasons: job security, earning potential, technical training, networking, increasing knowledge purely for the sake of increasing knowledge, a love of learning, to find and nurture their passion, to find a significant other, to expand their horizons... the list goes on and on. Some students go to college because, as Shaun Brumder says in the 2002 film Orange County, “that’s what you do after high school!” Write an essay in which you discuss your primary reason for attending a University. Why are you here? What do you hope to gain out of your college experience? Out of this class?

Tips:
• THIS ESSAY SHOULD NOT BE A NARRATIVE. Don’t tell me a story; write me an essay. It should be an academic essay with a thesis, 2-3 main points, etc.
• 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. Say something more like, “I am at a University because I plan on raising a family of 12 and I want to support them singlehandedly while my husband (or wife) holds down the fort, and I don’t think I can do that without a degree and training in electrical engineering.”
• Don’t write what you think I want to hear. Write the truth: it’s far more compelling and interesting to read.
• This essay is worth 5% of your overall grade. Take it seriously.

Rubric
• Ideas
  o Are the ideas in this essay obvious? Or are they specific and original? Could this essay be someone else’s? Or is it specific to this student? (This is known as the development of ideas—are the ideas developed?)
• Structure
  o Does this essay have a clear, concise thesis statement? Is the introduction doing WORK? Does each body paragraph have a clear topic sentence that relates back to the thesis? Is each body paragraph unified? Are the sentences clear and easy to read? Does the conclusion remind the reader of what they’ve just read and why it matters? Etc.