

# Perceptions & Reality: Education

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ENG 104

Dr. Alison Witte

## WHAT IS AN EDUCATION?

Why do people go to school? What is important about learning? Why did you come to college? What factors motivated you to choose college rather than work, the military, or living in your parents' basement after high school? We have several cultural narratives surrounding higher education that encourage us to attend college--that going to college will help you get a better job, for example, or that tell us what the college experience should be—that college will help us gain independence from our parents or help us to find ourselves. These narratives shape what we expect the college experience to be and our approaches to college and higher education.

This paper will identify a belief that a particular group of people (students, parents, teachers, government employees, coaches, employers, etc.) hold about college and make a claim, supported by research, about *why* people hold that belief and how accurate that belief is.

## ASSIGNMENT

In this paper, you will identify a belief that a particular group of people have about education and explain, using outside resources, why people have that belief. Once you have explained why people hold a certain belief, you will need to use sources to argue how accurate that belief is, in comparison to what you believe and what evidence from outside sources show education is really like. As with the previous papers, this paper will take the form of an essay with a thesis, supporting paragraphs and the use of source material to support your claims.

This paper is going to be the most formal we've written this semester, so while you can still draw on personal experience, you are looking to demonstrate how your personal experience is part of a larger experience that may be shared by many people. You are looking to make a more general claim about education that is applicable to many people, not just yourself.

Your paper needs to be 3-4 pages and to include at least 4 sources that you locate on your own. These sources must be academic, rather than popular sources. Academic sources include scholarly books, academic articles, documentaries, and scholarly blogs. You may also use popular sources such as websites or popular publications like magazines and newspapers, **but these do NOT count toward your 4 source total.**

You must summarize 1 of the sources, rather than taking a direct quote from it.

**STARTING POINTS**

- What do people think the purpose of education is in society? (Think about the Shorris and Edmundson readings)
- Why do people think education is important? Why have people in your life told you education is important?
- What do people think the role of athletics should be in education?
- What do people think the role of the arts should be in education?
- Do people think there more ways to learn besides going to school? What do they believe are the advantages of going to school? What are the advantages to learning outside of school?
- What do people think students supposed to learn in school? In college?
- Why do people think they should go to college? Why do people think people should not attend college?
- Who do people think should pay for college?
- What do people think is the ideal college experience? Why?
- How do people think technology influences education? Do people think technology should be an important part or focus of education? Why or why not?

**FORMAT**

Your Education Project should follow standard writing conventions and the following format:

- You will need to give your project an interesting and relevant title (Not Education Paper).
- Your paper needs to have a heading in MLA style
- Your paper needs to have a header in MLA style
- Your paper should be double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and 11 or 12 point font. Please use standard fonts such as Calibri or Times New Roman.
- You need to cite your sources in MLA style and include an MLA style Works Cited page.
  - THE WORKS CITED PAGE DOES NOT COUNT IN THE PAGE REQUIREMENT.

	Last Name Page #
Your Name	
Professor’s Name	
Class Name	
Day Month Year	
Title	
Paper, paper, paper, paper.....	

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Friday, 3/18 In-progress project for Teacher Review (Moodle)
- Wednesday, 4/6 REVISED project for Workshop (Printed and Brought to Class)
- Wednesday, 4/20 Last Day to submit revisions for Teacher Review (EMAIL ONLY)

## ASSESSMENT

The rubric below will be used to assess it when it is submitted in your portfolio.

	Content	Organization & Purpose	Presentation	Requirements
An A Project (112.5-125 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly identifies a belief that a specific group of people hold about education</li> <li>Clearly explains <i>why</i> these people hold this belief and supports this explanation with appropriate data/information from sources</li> <li>Makes a clear claim about the accuracy of the belief the particular group holds in comparison with reality, supporting the claim with appropriate data/information from sources</li> <li>Presents a clear and reasonable counter-argument that is supported by sources and refutes that counter-argument with appropriate sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a clear thesis statement that identifies a particular belief that a particular group of people holds about education and makes a claim about the accuracy of that belief</li> <li>Uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing</li> <li>Uses transitions or directions for the reader that are clear and easy to follow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly cites sources in MLA</li> <li>Includes a correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page</li> <li>Is relatively free of minor grammar and spelling errors and contains no major errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets the length requirement</li> <li>Includes at least 4 academic sources</li> <li>Includes one cited summary</li> </ul>
A B Project (100-112 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly clearly identifies a belief that a specific group of people hold about education, but either the group or the belief is unclear in a spot or two</li> <li>Mostly clearly explains <i>why</i> these people hold this belief and mostly supports this explanation with appropriate data/information from sources with a few spots that need further explanation or support from sources</li> <li>Makes a mostly clear claim about the accuracy of the belief the particular group holds in comparison with reality, mostly supporting the claim with appropriate data/information from sources, with a few spots where the claim is unclear or more appropriate support is needed</li> <li>Presents a mostly clear and reasonable counter-argument that is mostly supported by sources and mostly refutes that counter-argument with appropriate sources, with a few spots where sources are inappropriate or where more sources are needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a clear thesis statement that identifies a particular belief that a particular group of people holds about education and makes a claim about the accuracy of that belief, but the thesis could be clearer in a few spots</li> <li>Usually uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but has a few spots where the integration is awkward</li> <li>Usually uses transitions or directions for the reader that are clear and easy to follow, but has a few spots where more direction is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly cites sources in MLA with only a few minor errors</li> <li>Includes a correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with only a few minor errors</li> <li>Is generally free of minor grammar and spelling errors and contains no major errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets the length requirement</li> <li>Includes at least 4 academic sources</li> <li>Includes one cited summary</li> </ul>
A C Project (87.5-99.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally clearly identifies a belief that a specific group of people hold about education, but the group and/or the belief is unclear in some spots</li> <li>Generally clearly explains <i>why</i> these people hold this belief and generally supports this explanation with appropriate data/information from sources with some spots that need further explanation or support from sources</li> <li>Makes a generally clear claim about the accuracy of the belief the particular group holds in comparison with reality, generally supporting the claim with mostly appropriate data/information from sources, with some spots where the claim is unclear or more appropriate support is needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a thesis statement that identifies a particular belief that a particular group of people holds about education, but doesn't make a clear claim about the accuracy of that belief or the rest of the paper does not always support that claim</li> <li>Generally uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but needs to use them throughout</li> <li>Is somewhat easy to follow, but has</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correctly cites at least 3 of 4 sources in MLA with a some minor and a few major errors</li> <li>Includes a mostly correctly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with some minor errors and no more than 1 major errors</li> <li>Has some minor grammar and spelling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meets the length requirement</li> <li>Includes at least 4 academic sources</li> <li>Includes one cited summary</li> </ul>

	Content	Organization & Purpose	Presentation	Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presents a generally clear and reasonable counter-argument that is generally supported by sources and generally refutes that counter-argument with generally appropriate sources, with some spots where sources are inappropriate or where more sources are needed</li> </ul>	<p>many spots where transitions or directions to the reader could be more direct, or spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section are unclear as a part of the whole project</p>	<p>errors and a few major errors</p>	
A D Project (75-87 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat clearly identifies a belief that a specific group of people hold about education, but the group and/or the belief is unclear in many spots</li> <li>• Somewhat clearly explains <i>why</i> these people hold this belief and somewhat supports this explanation with appropriate data/information from sources with many spots that need further explanation or support from sources</li> <li>• Makes a somewhat clear claim about the accuracy of the belief the particular group holds in comparison with reality, somewhat supporting the claim with mostly appropriate data/information from sources, with many spots where the claim is unclear or more appropriate support is needed</li> <li>• Presents a somewhat reasonable counter-argument that is somewhat supported by sources and somewhat refutes that counter-argument with somewhat appropriate sources, with many spots where sources are inappropriate or where more sources are needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a thesis statement that identifies a particular belief that a particular group of people holds about education, but doesn't make a claim OR makes a weak claim but the rest of the paper does not always support that claim</li> <li>• Minimally uses signal phrases to smoothly incorporate cited material into your writing, but needs to use them throughout</li> <li>• Is not easy to follow, and has several spots where transitions or directions to the reader are needed, and/or some spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section are unclear as a part of the whole project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctly cites no more than 2 of the sources in MLA with many minor and a few major errors</li> <li>• Includes an incorrectly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with many minor and some major omissions or errors</li> <li>• Has several minor and some major grammar and spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not meet the length requirement</li> <li>• Does not include at least 4 citations from academic sources</li> <li>• Does not include one cited summary</li> </ul>
An F Project (Less than 75 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimally or never identifies a belief that a specific group of people hold about education, and the group and/or the belief is unclear throughout</li> <li>• Minimally or never explains <i>why</i> these people hold this belief and minimally or never supports this explanation with appropriate data/information from sources with numerous spots that need further explanation or support from sources</li> <li>• Minimally or never makes a claim about the accuracy of the belief the particular group holds in comparison with reality, minimally or never supporting the claim with mostly appropriate data/information from sources, with numerous spots where the claim is unclear or more appropriate support is needed</li> <li>• Presents a minimally reasonable counter-argument that is minimally or never supported by sources and minimally or never refutes that counter-argument with appropriate sources, with numerous spots where sources are inappropriate or where more sources are needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has no clear thesis statement that identifies a particular belief that a particular group of people holds about education, and doesn't make a claim</li> <li>• Rarely or never uses signal phrases to incorporate cited material</li> <li>• Is not easy to follow because it is missing transitions or directions to the reader OR Is not easy to follow because it has too many spots where the purpose of a paragraph or section is unclear as a part of the whole project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correctly cites no more than 2 of the sources in MLA with many major errors</li> <li>• Includes an incorrectly formatted MLA Works Cited Page with major omissions or errors OR includes no Works Cited page</li> <li>• Has many minor and several major grammar and spelling errors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not meet the length requirement</li> <li>• Does not include at least 4 citations from academic sources</li> <li>• Does not include one cited summary</li> </ul>