

**Introductory Essay Prompt: "Why Are You Here?"**

**Assignment Name:** Introductory Essay: "Why Are You Here?"

**Due Date:** End of Week 1 (via Canvas)

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this essay is to help you reflect on your personal journey and reasons for being in this English composition class, at this college, or in your chosen major. This reflection will provide insight into your motivations, goals, and any challenges you may face, allowing us to better support your academic success.

**Skills:** This assignment will help you practice the following skills that are essential to your success in this course and beyond:

- **Reflective Thinking:** Analyzing your personal experiences and decisions.
- **Writing:** Organizing your thoughts and presenting them clearly in written form.
- **Critical Thinking:** Evaluating your motivations and goals.
- **Self-Assessment:** Identifying challenges and support needs.

**Knowledge:** This assignment will also help you become familiar with the following important content knowledge in this discipline:

- Understanding the role of personal reflection in academic and professional growth.
- Recognizing the importance of setting academic and career goals.
- Identifying the types of support that can enhance your educational journey.

**Tasks:**

1. Write a 2–3-page essay addressing the question, "Why are you here?" You may interpret "here" in any way that resonates with you, whether it means being in this specific class, attending this college, or pursuing your chosen major.
2. Consider the following questions to guide your writing:
  - **Personal Background:**
    - What experiences or events led you to enroll in this English composition class?
    - How did you decide to attend this particular college?
    - What influenced your choice of major or field of study?
  - **Motivations and Goals:**
    - What are your short-term and long-term academic and career goals?

- How do you believe this class, college, or major will help you achieve these goals?
- Are there any personal or professional aspirations driving your decisions?
- **Challenges and Support:**
  - Have you faced any obstacles or challenges in your educational journey so far?
  - What kind of support do you think you need to succeed in this class and beyond?
  - How do you plan to overcome any difficulties you might encounter?
- **Expectations and Reflections:**
  - What do you hope to gain from this English composition class?
  - How do you see your time at this college shaping your future?
  - Reflect on any personal growth or changes you anticipate as a result of your studies.

**Criteria for Success:**

- Your essay should be 2-3 pages long, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.
- Use a standard font such as Times New Roman, size 12.
- Include an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Avoid simply following a question and answer format.
- Proofread your essay for grammar, spelling, and clarity.
- This essay is graded on a complete/incomplete basis, but thoughtful and honest responses will be most beneficial.

**Submission:**

- Please submit your essay by the end of Week 1 via Canvas.

**Note:** This essay is a tool to help us understand your needs and provide the necessary support.