

English 1A, Cole, LPC

#### Essay 4

The Work Essay: A Synthesis

To business that we love we rise betime  
And go to it with delight.  
William Shakespeare, Antony and Cleopatra

I am a true laborer; I earn that I eat, get that I wear, owe no man hate, envy no man's happiness,  
glad of other men's good, content with my harm.  
William Shakespeare, As You Like It

Note: According to Margaret Miner and Hugh Rawson in A Dictionary Quotations from Shakespeare, "By content with my harm, Corin the shepherd means that he is not unhappy with the burdens of his life" (360).

#### Assignment:

We have read many articles that focus on different issues involving work. Below are questions that require you to discuss some of the readings and / or the film, Erin Brokovich. Address one of the following questions in an essay of approximately 4 pages (typed or word processed) or create a question of your own, drawing on the movie and at least two readings. Important: If you create your own question, you must have it approved by me in order to get credit.

#### Objectives:

In writing this essay, you will practice the following:

Participating in the steps in the writing process;  
Engaging in Peer Response;  
Extracting pertinent information from readings and the film;  
Synthesizing the information from the readings and the film;  
Discussing the ideas and / or presenting information from the film and the readings with accuracy and clarity;  
Accurately attributing ideas and / or quotations from the readings and film using MLA documentation;  
Writing a focused, cohesive, well-developed, organized, clear essay.

#### Grading:

As in previous essays, your paper will be graded on the strength of the following characteristics. The numbers indicate the points you will receive for each characteristic (100 points possible).

#### Focus / Cohesion: 25 points

The essay has a clear thesis;  
The paragraphs have clear points that develop the thesis and each other;  
All of the information in the essay relates to and / or develops the thesis.

#### Development: 45 points

Content Requirements – The essay will. . .  
Fully address the selected writing prompt.  
Contain body paragraph points that are supported by accurate and specific information from the appropriate texts (the reading and the film).  
Contain Explanations (as needed) of how the information supports the points.  
Demonstrate the writer can accurately document all information from sources, using citations and including a works cited.

Organization: 10 points  
The paragraphing is logical;  
The order of ideas is logical;  
The transitions are smooth so that the essay is cohesive.

Style: 5 points  
The word choice is fresh and appropriate;  
The sentence structure is smooth and varied.

Mechanics: 15 points  
The sentences are properly constructed, with no grammar or usage errors;  
The punctuation is correct;  
The writer has proofread for typographical and spelling errors.

Peer Response:  
Arrive to peer response prepared with three copies of your rough draft. Arriving unprepared will result in the loss of 10 points on your final draft.

PR Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Draft Due:  
Include in your manila envelope the final draft, all rough draft(s) with peer / instructor / tutor notes, all prewriting.

Important Notes:  
Remember to underline book and movie titles (longer works) and put quotation marks (""") around the titles of articles (shorter works). (Alternative: all of this information can be italicized instead).  
Include a title at the beginning of the essay.  
Indicate which prompt you are addressing at the top of the paper.  
Include a heading and format the essay according to The Writer's Reference (see sample paper on p. 371.).

Essay Questions (choose one to address in your essay):

Focusing on the character(s) in the movie Erin Brokovich and at least two of the readings, examine the difficulties of balancing one's work life and personal life. In your thesis, describe this challenge. Then describe the causes and the effects of the difficulties as discussed in the readings and evidenced in the movie. Finally, consider solutions to the problem as discussed in the readings and presented in the movie. Draw on at least two\* of the following readings in your essay in addition to the film:  
(Each chapter of Ciulla's *The Working Life: The Promise and Betrayal of Modern Work* will be considered a separate reading.)

Schor, "The Overworked American"  
Quindlen, "Men at Work"  
Rosen, "The Load Not Taken"  
\*Ciulla, *The Working Life: The Promise and Betrayal of Modern Work*  
Goodman, "The Company Man"  
Farrell, "Ralph's Story"

Focusing on the character(s) in the movie Erin Brokovich and at least two of the readings, examine what makes work meaningful and satisfying. Your thesis should compare and / or contrast the perspectives presented in the readings and the movie. Then, in the body

paragraphs, give specific examples from the film and the readings, comparing and / or contrasting the points of view. Draw on at least two\* of the following readings in addition to the film: (Each chapter of Ciulla's *The Working Life: The Promise and Betrayal of Modern Work* will be considered a separate reading.)

Ciulla, *The Working Life: The Promise and Betrayal of Modern Work*  
Morrow, "What is the Point of Working?"  
Berry, "The Joy of Work."

Examine the issue of how gender and / or class affects one's experience in the workplace, discussing the character(s) in the movie *Erin Brokovich* and at least two\* of the readings: (Each chapter of Ciulla's *The Working Life: The Promise and Betrayal of Modern Work* will be considered a separate reading.)

Tannen, *Talking from 9 to 5*  
Carlisle / Hoff, "Young, Privileged, and Unemployed"  
Rosen, "The Load Not Taken"  
Ciulla, *The Working Life: The Promise and Betrayal of Modern Work*

Alternate, Non-movie Option: Answer any of the questions above, examining and writing about three\* of the readings instead of the movie and two of the readings. (Each chapter of Ciulla's *The Working Life: The Promise and Betrayal of Modern Work* will be considered a separate reading.)

Please attach this to the front of the final draft.

Cole, LPC

Name:

Final Draft Evaluation Sheet

The Work Essay: A Synthesis

Focus / Cohesion: 25 points                      Points Earned:

The essay has a clear thesis;

The paragraphs contain clear points that develop the thesis and each other;

All of the information in the essay relates to and/or develops the thesis.

Development: 45 points                      Points Earned:

Content Requirements – The essay . . .

Fully addresses the selected writing prompt.

Contains body paragraph points that are supported by accurate and specific information from the appropriate texts (the reading and the film).

Contains Explanations (as needed) of how the information supports the points.

Demonstrates the writer can accurately document all information from sources, using citations and including a works cited.

Has a title.

Organization: 10 points                      Points Earned:

The paragraphing is logical;

The order of ideas is logical;

The transitions are smooth so that the essay is cohesive.

Style: 5 points                      Points Earned:

The word choice is fresh and appropriate;

The sentence structure is smooth and varied.

The format follows the guidelines in *The Writer's Reference*.

Mechanics: 15 points                      Points Earned:  
The sentences are properly constructed, with no grammar or usage errors;  
The punctuation is correct;  
The writer has proofread for typographical and spelling errors.

Peer Response: Yes                      No    (Missed Peer Response: -10 points)

Grade:

Recommendations for the Rewrite and/or the Research Paper:

## Essay 2: The Synthesis Peer Response Questions

These questions should serve as guidelines. Make comments on the draft of your peer, sign it, and give it back to the writer.

### Focus:

Identify the thesis statement as you understand it. Make a note if you can't find one. Does it answer the question? Explain why or why not.

Check the body paragraphs: Do they have clear points that develop the thesis statement? Note the point in each paragraph. Also note whether the point develops the thesis.

Note any places where the writer loses focus: How could the writer reframe this information so that it develops the points in the paper?

### Development:

Check the supporting "information," or evidence (the quotations, examples, paraphrases): Does the writer set up a quotation, giving you a context so that you understand it (who said it . . .)? Has the writer used specific examples from the movie? Note places where the relevance of the evidence is unclear or where evidence is needed.

Check "E" in PIE: Does the writer explain how the information supports the point? Note places where the writer could add or develop an explanation.

Check the documentation: Does the writer give the sources and are they included in the Works Cited?

Check the introduction: Is it engaging? Does it orient you as to what to expect in the paper?

Check the conclusion: Does it sum up the paper well? Does it answer the question, "So what?"

### Organization:

Does each paragraph have a clear topic sentence(s)? Note paragraphs that need a topic sentence(s).

Is the paragraphing logical? Note places where the writer could add or combine a paragraph.

Are the transitions between evidence, ideas, and paragraphs smooth and logical? Note places where the writer could work on a transition.

### Overall:

What do you like most about this paper? What did you learn?

What should the writer focus on the most when revising?

Are you left with any questions? Note these on the paper.

Remember:

Underline movie titles and book titles.

Put quotation marks around article titles.

Use parenthetical citation to identify the sources of your evidence

Include a Works Cited page (see Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*)

Use the last names of authors.