

Name: _____ Class Day & Time: _____ Due Date: _____

Essay #1: Descriptive Essay

Imagine you have a friend or classmate at BC who is feeling overwhelmed by the first few weeks of the semester and thinking about dropping out. Write a **four-paragraph essay** convincing him or her not to give up by describing **two specific strategies** that he or she could use to be successful in his or her classes.

For this essay, you will **complete all of the steps of the writing process** (prewriting, a handwritten or typed rough draft with handwritten revisions/corrections, and a typed final draft with underlined thesis statement and topic sentences). Your essay must also be uploaded to **turnitin.com**. **Final drafts that are turned in without a rough draft, are handwritten, or are not uploaded to turnitin.com will not be graded.** Refer to the rubric on the reverse side of this handout for more specific grading criteria.

	Points Possible	Points Earned
Writing Process	5	
Thesis Statement	5	
Organization and Development	30	
Style	5	
MLA Formatting	5	
Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics	10	
Late Penalty (-6 points for each class period)	-6 * ____	
Total	60	

Essay Grading Rubric

	Advanced (A)	Proficient (B)	Basic (C)	Developing (D or F)
Writing Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes well-developed prewriting. Includes rough draft with thorough and thoughtful handwritten revisions and corrections. <p style="text-align: center;">(5 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes sufficiently-developed prewriting. Includes rough draft with sufficient revisions and corrections. <p style="text-align: center;">(4 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes prewriting that lacks organization or sufficient details. Includes rough draft with limited revisions and corrections. <p style="text-align: center;">(3 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks prewriting or prewriting is incomplete. Lacks rough draft or rough draft is incomplete or does not contain revisions or corrections. <p style="text-align: center;">(0-2 points)</p>
Thesis Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement is original. <p style="text-align: center;">(5 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement is clearly phrased. <p style="text-align: center;">(4 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement is present but may be vague, formulaic, or does not accurately capture the overall point of the essay. <p style="text-align: center;">(3 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thesis statement is lacking, unclear, or phrased as a question or announcement. <p style="text-align: center;">(0-2 points)</p>
Organization and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains an effective introduction and satisfying conclusion. Contains focused body paragraphs with effective topic sentences and logical progression of ideas. Focus is maintained throughout essay. Transitions between ideas and paragraphs are smooth. Ideas are complex and thoroughly explained and/or illustrated with examples. <p style="text-align: center;">(27-30 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains a sufficient introduction and conclusion. Contains generally focused and organized body paragraphs with appropriate topic sentences. Focus is generally maintained. Transitions between ideas and paragraphs are generally smooth. Some ideas are complex and most ideas are explained and/or illustrated with examples. <p style="text-align: center;">(24-26 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction and conclusion are present but insufficient. Body paragraphs lack clear focus and/or appropriate topic sentences Placement of some ideas is illogical. Focus may be lost in a few places. Transitions between some ideas and paragraphs are rough. Ideas are often superficial or explanation is confusing and/or insufficient at times. <p style="text-align: center;">(21-23 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects confusion about purpose of the assignment. Lacks basic elements of essay structure (introduction, body, conclusion). Paragraph breaks are nonexistent or illogical. Ideas are presented randomly. Transitions between ideas and paragraphs are nonexistent. Ideas are consistently simplistic and lacking explanation. <p style="text-align: center;">(0-20 points)</p>
Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is academic with advanced vocabulary. 3rd person is used except where 1st person is appropriate. Uses a variety of sentence types and lengths effectively. <p style="text-align: center;">(5 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is generally academic and some advanced vocabulary is used. 3rd person is generally used. Uses a variety of sentence types and lengths. <p style="text-align: center;">(4 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Word choice is often basic; may contain some use of slang. Struggles to maintain 3rd person. Sentence variety is lacking and/or sentences tend to be the same lengths. <p style="text-align: center;">(3 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing is informal and word choice is basic. 1st or 2nd person dominates. Generally limited to simple sentences. <p style="text-align: center;">(0-2 points)</p>
MLA Formatting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correctly applies all aspects of MLA format. <p style="text-align: center;">(5 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally adheres to MLA format. <p style="text-align: center;">(4 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlooks some details of MLA format. <p style="text-align: center;">(3 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlooks most or all aspects of MLA format. <p style="text-align: center;">(0-2 points)</p>
Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free of major errors and generally free of minor errors. <p style="text-align: center;">(9-10 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally free of major errors with some minor errors that do not interfere with clarity. <p style="text-align: center;">(8 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains a few major errors and/or multiple minor errors that may interfere with clarity. <p style="text-align: center;">(7 points)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contains a number of major and minor errors that often interfere with clarity. <p style="text-align: center;">(0-5 points)</p>