

College Writing Seminar – Summer Intake Essay Assignment

*This essay must be emailed to CWS@juniata.edu
within one week of your summer orientation**.*

Deadlines by Orientation:

Orientation #1	(June 9-10):	5pm, June 17 th
Orientation #2	(June 11-12):	5pm, June 19 th
Orientation #3	(June 16-17):	5pm, June 24 th
Orientation #4	(June 18-19):	5pm, June 26 th
August Orientation	(Aug. 17-18):	5pm, July 11 th (submit as early as possible)

**August Orientation students will submit their essay *before* their orientation.

Carefully read this page before beginning this reading and writing assignment.

We will use your essay to recommend placement in an appropriate section of the College Writing Seminar (CWS). You should write this essay **on your own with no assistance, no editor, no proofreading by your parents**. And parents, if you are reading this, you should know that your “help” could hurt your student. So, please refrain.

Your task is to complete this assignment independently using only the sources provided. As a Juniata student, we expect you to uphold our commitment to academic honesty.

We want you to write this away from orientation so that it will best mirror your own writing process and so that you can compose an essay similar to what you would produce for a high school or entry-level college class.

Don't spend an extravagant amount of time on this essay. Just read the materials, consider the prompt, and begin your writing process. Do take time to revise and proofread.

Submission Process

- 1. Please use your Juniata email account to submit your essay.**
2. After you write, revise, and proofread your essay, **copy the text into the body of your email**. Check to see that it is properly formatted. Do not attach a file.
3. **In the subject line of the email**, please put ONLY your last name, first name.
Example: Subject: Smith, Gregory
4. Email your completed essay to CWS@juniata.edu **within a week of your summer orientation**.

Questions? Can't meet the deadline?

Contact Ann Ordiway at cws@juniata.edu. Be sure to put **QUESTION** in the subject line!

Assignment

Select ONE topic from the two choices below and review the corresponding materials.

Read thoroughly and then read again. Analyze the viewpoints expressed in the articles and videos. Evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

Write a 500-750 word essay. Focus on writing a clear essay with logical support. You may write from an “I” perspective and use personal examples. You should refer to at least one article or video in your essay. Be sure to cite anything you quote or paraphrase using the citation style with which you are most familiar.

Option #1 REFLECTIVE ESSAY

Review the materials and reflect on your personal experience.

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktlTxC4QG8g> and read the excerpt below:

All material below from the book The Power of Habit by Charles Duhigg:

In a 2005 study...researchers from the University of Pennsylvania analyzed 164 eighth grade students, measuring their IQs and other factors, including how much will power the students demonstrated, as measured by tests of their self-discipline.

Students who exerted high levels of will power were more likely to earn higher grades in their classes and gain admission into more selective schools. They had fewer absences and spent less time watching television and more hours on homework. "Highly self-disciplined adolescents outperformed their more impulsive peers on every academic performance variable," the researchers wrote. "Self-discipline predicted academic performance more robustly than did IQ. Self-discipline also predicted which students would improve their grades over the course of the school year, whereas IQ did not. Self discipline has a bigger effect on academic performance than does intellectual talent.'

"All our life, so far as it has definite form, is but a mass of habits," William James wrote in 1892.

Habits can be changed if we understand how they work. If you believe you can change – if you make it a habit – the change becomes real. This is the real power of habit: the insight that your habits are what you choose them to be. Once that choice occurs – and becomes automatic – it's not only real, it starts to seem inevitable, the thing, as James wrote, that bears "us irresistibly towards our destiny, whatever the latter may be."

You can create your own response to this topic or address one or some of the questions below in a REFLECTIVE essay:

- Do you have self-discipline or do you lack self-discipline? Where do you see this demonstrated in a way that impacts your life?
- What habit of yours leads you towards a successful destiny? How do you know?
- What habit of yours should be changed? Why?

Option #2 ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY

Review the materials, establish a position, and support it logically.

Politics is prevalent in our daily lives: in our social media and our social interactions. Even during the charged political battles of 2016, voter turnout in the United States remained low with only about 56% of eligible voters casting a ballot. Among younger voters, voter turnout was even lower.

Since casting a vote is the hallmark of participating in a democracy and critical in the direction of our country, why do you think young Americans do not vote?

Read the following articles and consider the issues that the writers identify as hindering voter turnout. Decide which issue you feel is most important and explain why. Be sure to integrate some material from the sources below and cite those sources in your essay. Focus on writing a logical argument with clear support.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/12/26/why-dont-more-americans-vote-maybe-because-they-dont-trust-u-s-elections/>

<https://www.sciencenews.org/blog/scicurious/why-people-dont-vote-and-what-do-about-it>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/graphics/2016-non-voters/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/03/22/why-dont-millennials-vote/?utm_term=.49d03a8b52c8

<http://www.npr.org/2016/05/16/478237882/millennials-now-rival-boomers-as-a-political-force-but-will-they-actually-vote>