

Short Writing Assignment #1

Please answer the following question with in a one-page essay. What is your opinion of the influence of religion in American society?

Format

Your response must include these elements:

- Topic Sentence:** Give a direct and precise answer to the question. State clearly your position on the question so there is no doubt in the readers' mind where you stand.
- Definition:** Explain how you are using the main terms included in the topic sentence.
- Context:** Explain where the example to be used comes from and the circumstances surrounding its relevance.
- Example(s)** Cite a specific example.
- Interpretation:** In the case of a quotation taken from the text, interpret it fully. In the case of a painting describe it completely.
- Relationship:** Explain the relationship between the example and the position you have taken on the subject.

Grading Rubric

Indicators	Levels of Achievement			
	Beginning (0)	Developing (1)	Competent (3)	Accomplished (5)
Meaning and Development: ideas, examples, reasons and evidence, point of view	Inappropriate No viable point of view; little or no evidence; weak critical thinking; providing insufficient reasons or other support	Appropriate Develops a point of view; demonstrating some critical thinking; may have some inadequate examples, reasons and other evidence of support	Effective Develops a point of view and demonstrates competent critical thinking; enough supporting detail to accomplish the purpose of the question	Insightful Ideas are fresh, mature and extensively developed; insightfully develops a point of view and demonstrates outstanding critical thinking
Conventions: grammar, punctuation, spelling, paragraphing, format	Distracting Errors interfere with writer's ability to consistently communicate purpose; pervasive mechanical errors obscure meaning; inappropriate format	Fundamental Errors interfere with writer's ability to communicate purpose; contains an accumulation of errors; some weakness in format	Controlled Occasional errors do not interfere with writer's ability to communicate purpose; generally appropriate format	Polished Control of conventions contribute to the writer's ability to communicate purpose; free of most mechanical errors; appropriate format