

ESSAY 4: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE STUDENT?

In "The Banking Concept of Education," Paulo Friere explains that the relationship between teachers and students should be closer to one in which "the teacher is no longer merely the one-who-teaches, but one who is himself taught in dialogue with the students, who in turn while being taught also teach. They become jointly responsible for a process in which all grow" (115). Likewise, Adrienne Rich emphasizes the importance of "claiming" an education and focusing on "responsibility to yourself" (61). Rich argues the importance of "assuming your share of responsibility for what happens in the classroom...[so] that the student sees herself *with* her teachers in an active, ongoing, struggle for a real education" (63). We see that Malcolm X is a wonderful illustration of Freire's and Rich's ideas because he takes ownership of his own education and works to create meaningful learning experiences for himself.

The authors in this unit ask us to take responsibility for our own education. Please compose an essay of approximately four pages answering the prompt below:

Drawing on at least two texts from this unit as well as your own experience, explain how Friere's, Rich's, and / or Malcolm X's ideas help you envision your role as a student at LBCC and beyond. What do you need to do to "claim your education," and why should other students care about the vision discussed in your essay?

In your essay:

- Remember that there are no right or wrong answers. Your job as a writer is to persuade your audience that your vision for students would produce a meaningful education. Therefore, you need to test your theory through thoughtful, well-developed presentation of evidence in an argumentative essay with a clearly articulated thesis.
- You will need to turn to the language of the authors' arguments, to take key phrases and passages from these arguments and see how they might be used to investigate your case. Analyze passages from all parts of the text rather than general references to early points and synthesize (that is *apply*) the textual analysis to your definition.
- If you use exact words or paraphrased passages from a text, cite responsibly using quotation marks and/or parenthetical in-text citations following MLA format.
- You will need to provide careful detail of illustrations: examples, quotation, or data from the text and/or events that you observed or experienced.
- Write so that someone not in our class could understand the topic. Assume your audience has not read the texts. This means you will need to briefly summarize them to provide contextual, introductory background for your topic and source. Refer to *They Say, I Say* statements to help you with the summary.
- Use your critical voice to connect your experience with the texts. Consider why students should care about your position.
- **Write at least four complete pages** of composition and include a Works Cited page adhering to MLA paper format.
- **A hard copy of Essay 3 is due on _____ at the beginning of class time.**