The Research Paper: Essay #3

Purpose:
This assignment is designed to teach essential skills for writing research papers. Students will learn to search for and determine the credibility of outside sources, choose and narrow a topic, present researched material in a paper, and create a Works Cited page. In addition, students will continue to practice skills already learned in class, such as writing a clear thesis, using varied transitions, incorporating quotes, documenting sources using MLA format, and many others.

Task:
Choose one of the people we have read about in Top 10 Visionaries by George Ilian. Then, write a five-paragraph essay that analyzes that person’s success, utilizing sources from class and your own research to support your response. Throughout the essay, successfully incorporate quotes from a variety of credible sources to support the topic sentences. Note: This is NOT a biography or life story of the person you have chosen. While you may use the person’s life experiences as examples to support your ideas, the focus should be on QUALITIES that person has (which you may be able to relate to the concepts in mindset).

Sources:
Mindset by Carol Dweck
Top 10 Visionaries by George Ilian
At least 3 additional outside sources

Organization:

Introduction:
- Interesting hook about the person you have chosen
- Brief introduction to person you have chosen that shows your reader that they are successful (what are they known for)
- Thesis statement that makes a claim about the success of the person based on concepts we have learned in class (see examples on back)

Body Paragraphs: (1 paragraph per quality)
- Topic sentence about the quality that has contributed (or not contributed) to the person’s success
- Support that explains how the quality has contributed (or not) based the principles you learned from Mindset or another source, as well as examples from Top 10 Visionaries. Your support may include events or experiences in the person’s life in which he/she has demonstrated that quality, things they have said (or others
have said) about that quality, or information from Mindset about how that quality contributes (or doesn’t) to success.

- Your support should include at least three quotes or paraphrases from more than one source in each body paragraph. This means that you will have at least 2 sources in each body paragraph. You may use a source in more than 1 body paragraph.
- There should be an introductory signal phrase the first time each source is used. When appropriate, the credibility of each source should be given.
- There should be enough context given so that your reader can understand the quote.
- There should also be sufficient explanation of how your quoted or paraphrased information supports your topic sentence.
- Keep quoted material short. If you are using a story or a long example from Top 10, summarize it in your own words and cite it.

Conclusion:

- Restate your thesis and main subtopics.
- End the essay in a logical way. This may be a prediction about the person’s future success, a recommendation to the reader to follow that person’s example, an ending that ties back to the hook of the essay, or another appropriate ending.

Works Cited

- List every source used in MLA format and attach as a separate page to the essay

Important Notes:

Don't forget that plagiarism is cause for failure. This must be your paper written in your words. Every time you copy more than three consecutive words from a source, you must cite it. I take this very seriously and so should you. Your essay must be submitted through Safe Assign in Blackboard.

Write so that someone who is not in ESL 2A could understand it. Assume that your reader has not read the same texts. This means, for example, that if you use terms like “fixed mindset” or “growth mindset,” you must explain them.

Sample Thesis Statements:

Although John McEnroe was certainly a very talented and successful tennis player, one must wonder whether he would have been even more successful if he had had different personal qualities. (for someone who has shown fixed mindset qualities)

Clearly, Thomas Edison was a talented inventor; however, his persistence, his ability to learn from failure, and his willingness to work with others greatly contributed to his success. (for a successful growth mindset person)