

STIRRING THE POT: RACE, CLASS AND GENDER IN HIGHER EDUCATION
Second Formal Paper Assignment

Polished Draft DUE: In class on Thursday, October 29th (first Thursday after break) **Bring 4 copies.** Final Draft DUE: In class on Tuesday, November 10.

Assignment

Write a **three-five page** essay (750-1250 words) comparing one of our readings in class to the institutional culture, practices, and/or learning environment of Grinnell College. You may want to make use of the “Schematization of the Typical College Essay” as a guide for how to arrange your paper. For this paper, I want you to play the cultural anthropologist, and convey your understanding of this place, your home institution for four years, in comparison to other higher education contexts and/or patterns in higher education. A place to start brainstorming is to consider these questions: What kind of place is this and how does it compare to other institutions of higher education? How does Grinnell College fit into the larger historical and cultural changes affecting higher education today? Then you need to pick one article or chapter that we have read so far and use it as a point of contrast or comparison to convey your observations of Grinnell. For this, consider how Nathan organizes her chapter on “The Art of College Management” or “Community and Diversity” in which she introduces a topic, describes the larger context for the issue in higher education, and then makes observations and draws conclusions about how that topic is addressed at AnyU. Another approach would be to open with a vignette or short scene from Grinnell that is representative of an issue that you will address in your paper. The prompt for your paper is as follows: **Compare and contrast the findings and observations in the chapter or article you have selected to what you have observed and experienced at Grinnell College.**

Audience and Voice

In writing your essay, you should think of students in a similar course at a DIFFERENT college or university as your audience. You do not have to name a specific school, but have that in mind as you write, that you are explaining the culture of Grinnell College to someone who does not know it, much in the way that Rebekah Nathan does in her book. Similarly, while your imagined reader might have been reading similar articles on higher education, they have not been privy to our conversations, so you will need to summarize the article or chapter you are addressing clearly, using direct quotes, summary and paraphrase as needed. Your situation in writing this paper is obviously that of a college class, so you must be careful to back up your assertions with **evidence from the text**, including proper page citations and a bibliography.

Format and Writing Processes:

- The essay must be typed, double-spaced, with a ten- or twelve-point font and margins all around of at least one inch, preferably an inch and a quarter. You need to get in the habit of honoring page limits, so the final version MUST follow these specifications and be five pages in length or less.

Comment [g1]: The title keeps the student oriented to the role the assignment plays in the course: “second formal paper assignment.”

Comment [g2]: The assignment offers clear instructions as to due date and process.

Comment [g3]: The assignment requires students to use evidence of something they know (Grinnell’s culture) in an analysis parallel to one done in a text they’ve read (Nathan’s). In other words, the text provides a model of how to do the analysis.

Comment [g4]: The specific question is bolded. This clue helps students separate the explanation of the prompt from the actual question.

Comment [g5]: The assignment addresses the audience and voice students are expected to use in the paper and refers the students to the way the text models these characteristics.

Comment [g6]: The assignment specifies all the expectations for mechanics, appearance, title, acknowledgements, and citation system.

- Put your name, the date, page numbers and a **title** on the paper, but don't bother with a separate title page (a waste of paper).
- Printing your paper two-sided, if your printer can do it, is acceptable and even desirable.
- If you get help of any kind on the paper (from a friend who typed or proofread it for you, or from the Writing Lab, or even from your instructor) you should acknowledge that help with a note at the end of the paper thanking the person who helped you.
- Your citations and list of references must follow a generally recognized style of citation. Use the quick reference I handed out in class, or refer to one of the following sources online: the Modern Languages Association (MLA), as described at <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/guides/mlagd.html>. Another commonly used citation form is from the *Chicago Manual of Style*. See <http://www.lib.ohio-state.edu/guides/chicagogd.html>. See also the advice from the Grinnell College Writing Lab on "Ethical Use of Information in Writing." <http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/writinglab/ethicaluse/>.