

Discussion Points for these samples of students' writing, based on Lisya's presentation

Cultural expectations and challenges in responding to specific aspects of these papers
Problems distinguishing HOCs and LOCs
Recognizing Alternative Discourses
Writers' identity positions
Language error or language variation? If variation, a resource?

Three Papers

This piece was written by a Chinese undergraduate student, a business major. He wrote this piece as part of an assignment in an Art History 101 class.

The artist Claude Oscar Monet (November 14, 1840 – December 5, 1926) is one of my favorite painters. He was a founder of French impressionist painting, and the most consistent and prolific practitioner of the movement's philosophy of expressing one's perceptions before nature. It was his painting Impression: Sunrise from which the term "Impressionism" was coined. While his garden in Giverny, he had a waterlily pond, and the sky above is the subjects of this monumental triptych. He died of lung cancer at the age of 86 on December 5, 1926 in France. His Water Lilies are my favorite painting compositions. Picking up his composition for this assignment is also my personally commemorate him as the same "December 5" by chance.



The artist applies the blue, green, white, yellow and red colors to show the effects of light on the water and water Lilies to suggest atmosphere. The painting brings me peaceful and quiet feeling. It doesn't show on the painting when it is.

Monet was to supply an illusion of an endless whole of water without horizon or bank. The painting has spatial cue all but dissolved to capture the atmospheric condition. The concerning medium creates a peaceful meditation in the center of a flowering aquarium for viewers.

His style results from the application of paint to white canvas in clear colors taken directly from the tube. The method is based upon the observation that objects take on color from their surroundings, from varying lights, and from other objects placed near them, like varicolored combination, permeated by light. His successful career led the way of Impressionism movement.

This piece was written by an Asian undergraduate for an intensive English class

I will never forget what I did since I have been United State. I never put any effort on my study. Everyday just hang around with friends. I never study although there was a test coming. I waste a lot of money on buying things. After the 1st semester, my result came out with really bad. I know my family members are so care about my result and I affright to let them know about that. I decided to lay to them because I really don't wish to up sad my dad and mum. I just told them I am doing well in my 1st semester here.

I never feel regret after did all these silly things after the 1st semester. I just took it very easy and continue to do what I want during the summer. I went to a place call Ocean City with my friends. I had spent a lot of money there. Besides that, we went to another place call Atlantic City. The place is full of gambling house. I lost all my money there. I supposed to save the money for my coming semester but I already lost it in casino. I had spent my whole year money for all the silly things.

We went back to campus in the beginning of August. I started to felt sad and affright. I was worry about my tuition fees. That time, my sister was trying to contact me. She sent me a lot of e-mail and call me many times. I was dare not to listen my sister's calls and not even reply her e-mail. All my family members were so worry about me. They don't even know what was happening to me. I thought for many days about how I supposed to do because I really don't know what to do. I never sleep well every night. I know my dad and mum also can't sleep well since I never contact them for so long. After suffer for a long time, finally I intend to give them a call and tell them I okay.

This piece was written by an undergraduate for a basic writing class.

Why students cut a class?

The reason why students cut a class, in my opinion, can divide into two aspects; one is from students' point of view, and the other is from teachers' attitude.

First reason, from teachers' perception, why students cut their classes is that they feel the class they take is boring and they cannot gain anything in the classes. Because of this reason, those students who cut classes regard some particular course as their "free time" that they can do their own business in that period. In addition to the foregoing reason, there is another reason. Most of students live outside or in the school dormitory after they entered college; therefore, equally, they live their lives without their parents' domination. So that some of them cannot control their own will, in other words, they are so incontinent that they go to school depend on their moods or feelings. Those are two main reasons, from teachers' point of view, why students cut a class.

However, there are some students have different opinions. Few of students think that some classes are too easy for them, so that they would rather study by themselves than go to class and to listen to something they already know. Opposite to this sensible reason, another reasonable reason for students but unacceptable for teachers is that students feel tired before they go to a class. A lot of students conceived a thought that would rather take a break in the library or dormitory than doze off during the class so that they cut a class in order to wake themselves up.

No matter what the reasons are, students should never cut their classes unless they have some specific reasons like family issue, etc. Because we use our parents' money to study in college so that we shouldn't cut a class just because of our bad moods or other excuses.