

Applied Representational Analysis

First Draft Assignment for Essay 3

Upload on WesternOnline by October 30 at 5:30 p.m. for Section 44 and by November 1 at 5:30 p.m. for 43. Three double-spaced, paginated pages.

Surely anyone who has been through more than twelve years of formal education can think of a class to serve as a quick example of what Freire terms the “banking” concept of education, where students were turned into “containers” to be “filled” by their teachers (260). If Freire is to be useful to you, however, he must do more than enable you to call up quick examples. He should allow you to say more than that a teacher once treated you like a container, or that a teacher once gave you your freedom.

Write an essay that focuses on a rich and illustrative incident from your own educational experience. Analyze it as Freire would. You will need to provide as much detail as you can remember, perhaps including the exact wording of an assignment or a teacher’s specific comments. You will also need to use the language of Freire’s argument, citing passages from his essay in order to apply them to your experience.

To do this, you should read your account not simply as the story of your teacher and you, since Freire does not write about individual personalities (an innocent student and a mean teacher, a rude teacher, or a stupid student), but about the roles in which we are cast, whether we choose them or not, by our culture and its institutions. The important question, then, is not who you were or who your teacher was, but what roles you played and how those roles can now lead you to understand the process of education.

Freire would not want you to work passively or mechanically, as though you were following orders. He would want you to make your own mark on the work he has begun. Use your example as a way of testing and examining what Freire says, particularly those passages that you find difficult or obscure.