

Written Assignment 2

CORE 100 04A, Fall 2003

From your experiences as a senior looking at CSB/SJU, through the CSB/SJU orientation program, through the first half of your first semester here, you have experienced CSB and SJU's attempts to create an enriching student environment.

For this assignment, create a plan for improving the student experience at CSB/SJU. Your essay should take one of two forms:

- a letter directed at a particular college administrator. (If you don't know whom to address with your idea, I will be happy to make suggestions.)
- an essay directed at the student body via *The Record's* opinion page.

Whether an administrator or *Record* readers, your audience would not read an extended paper to understand your idea; therefore, your essay should include no more than 750 words. Within this brief form, you should present your case persuasively and succinctly, including multiple pieces of evidence in favor of the idea. (You should write your essay in a helpful, respectful tone, so as not to alienate your audience.)

Your concerns should be real. I will not ask you to send your essay, although you are welcome to do so. Note that your next oral presentation will involve adapting your idea into a brief speech.

I encourage you to be realistic and to think small. Sure, it would be great to eliminate tuition or to create expensive new majors, but who would listen? Instead, consider the students who recently conceived of acquiring a movie projector and establishing a program of movies; they are responsible for the movies that show in Pellegrine Auditorium today. Your idea need not be something so unusual, however. For example, maybe you may want to form a new club, and you want

to convince others that the club is worth supporting. Perhaps you think that CSB/SJU could represent themselves better to prospective students, or that the orientation program included something that should have been omitted, or that the allocation of dorm rooms went poorly... And there are many more possibilities!

Due dates

- Tue 30 Sep Bring to class a typewritten sheet including a one-sentence summary of your idea, and a one-sentence summary of each piece of evidence you hope to include. (I will be happy to discuss your plans for the essay previous to this.) Some possible forms of evidence include testimonies from you or your classmates, speculation about the potential effects of your idea, counterarguments to likely arguments against your plan, and comparisons with other colleges.
- Mon 6 Oct Complete a finished draft and bring three copies to class. You will share your narrative with a conference group of other students, who will provide feedback on your essay. You should come prepared to solicit as much feedback as you can from your group members. (You will submit one of the copies to me before you leave.)
- Tue 7 Oct I will review your essay with you in a 30-minute individual conference. Bring your paper, revised to incorporate your conference group's feedback.
- Fri 17 Oct Submit the final revision of your paper by 5pm. Note that this is an odd day, and so class is not scheduled then. You may submit your paper via e-mail attachment to me or on paper into my office. (If I'm away from my office, slide it under my door.)