

Assignment:
Student and Research Essay
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Course: MGT 360
Title: Management and Organizational Behavior (3 units)

“At each stage in the process, ask the question ‘why’ five times.”
---Taiichi Ohno (1912-1990)

Goal:

I want you to reflect briefly on two issues germane to this class, and I want to capture a small writing sample from each of you. This assignment is straightforward.

Essay part 1:

In the first essay, I want you to reflect upon what makes you a student. Is it because you are enrolled? ...because you like learning? ...you want to get a better job? ...your parents are bugging you? Or? The score for this assignment does not depend on which reason best describes your student status, but rather on the elegant articulation of your reason. I want you to write two or three paragraphs that clearly explain to me your reasoning on what makes you a student.

Essay part 2:

In the second essay, I want you to choose the most difficult, intractable organizational problem (or if you can't think of one, an individual problem) you have ever encountered. Only choose a problem at the University if you are employed at the University. Write two or three paragraphs. The first paragraph should briefly describe the problem and the next paragraph(s) should briefly describe how you would go about studying possible solutions to the problem. Again, the score for this assignment does not depend on which problem you pick. I am more interested in your description of the issue and how you would go about studying (researching) both the issue and potential alternatives to addressing the issue.

Length:

Each part (part 1 and part 2) of the essay is to be one full page in length; therefore, this assignment is two full pages in length.

Performance Measurement:

The scoring rubric for this assignment is as follows:

- 3 - answered the first question completely
- 3 - answered the second question completely