

First and Last Name

ENG 100

Assignment #2: Academic Mindsets Argument

Due: Draft #1 posted to your blog by 11:59 pm on 2/23 / Draft #2 posted to your blog by final portfolio deadline (if you choose to revise this assignment and not assignment #3)

### **Assignment #2: *Academic Mindsets Argument***

**Prompt:** Please compose an argument that answers this question: How has your academic mindset impacted your abilities as a student to learn?

- Draft #1: 750-word source-based essay that uses MLA or APA citation of two sources (Dweck and Kohn). This draft must be included in your midterm portfolio.
- Draft #2: 1,500-word source-based essay that uses MLA or APA citation of at least four sources. You have the option of revising this essay and submitting it in your final portfolio.

**Style:** An argumentative essay that uses a conversational and appropriate tone for your audience. Please use either APA or MLA style to cite your sources.

**Purpose:** To persuade.

**Audience:** Your primary audience is your teacher and other folks who visit your website. Your secondary audience is people who are not familiar with your perspective and/or experiences with adaptive mindset ideologies.

**Focus:** Please focus your argument on your personal experiences (use narration and description of life events) and use source materials to support your claims about how your academic mindset impacted your abilities to learn.

**Thesis:** Your thesis statement must communicate the paper's central claim and use a topic, position, and support model (TPS). The thesis statement should be the last sentence in the introduction.

**Counter-argument/Rebuttal:** Please provide at least one counter-argument and rebuttal.

**Process:** To begin, *Think On Paper* about the issues surrounding your decision: freewrite, list, cluster, discuss, and read other expert opinions to generate ideas and answer the following questions:

- Did a fixed mindset ever prevent you from overcoming an academic challenge?
- Can you think of one specific course or school subject where you had to change your mindset to do well?
- Did you adopt a growth mindset and still not achieve your goal? What happened to prevent success?
- Does America's educational system privilege one way of knowing/learning (consider the multiplicity of languages and literacies students bring into the classroom)? If so, can a mindset overcome these inequities?
- Is America's educational system rigged against minorities and/or folks who live in poverty? If so, can a mindset overcome these inequities?
- Did your educational experiences promote a growth or fixed mindset approach to learning? Did you adapt/adopt?
- Do you want to switch from a fixed mindset in college to a growth mindset? If so, explain how and why.

**Product:** This assignment should be around 750 words for the first draft and 1,500 words for the second draft. For the written text, please format as follows: 12-point font, double-spacing. Please include an original title centered at the top of the project. This doesn't count as an original title: *Growth Mindset or Academic Mindset Assignment* or *My Academic Mindset*. We will use these criteria to evaluate your project:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay reveals how your academic mindset impacted your abilities to learn.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay cites source materials.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay has a clear purpose: persuade.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay has a clear structure: beginning, middle, end.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay provides a clear TPS thesis statement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay provides at least one counterargument and rebuttal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Your essay shows signs of careful proofreading with minimal grammatical, spelling errors.