English 095 CRITICAL RESPONSE TO THE WRITING TASK Prof. Pamplin

Your goal is to write a “thoughtful and insightful response to the task” that effectively integrates a critical discussion of ideas in the text (or class discussion!) and that uses relevant information from the writer’s reading and EXPERIENCE.

**Refine and polish the thesis statement**

To get to your final thesis, you'll need to refine your draft thesis so that it's **specific** and **arguable**.

* Ask if your draft thesis addresses the assignment
* Question each part of your draft thesis
* Clarify vague phrases and assertions
* Investigate alternatives to your draft thesis

Consult the example below for suggestions on how to refine your draft thesis statement.

**Assignment**

**Analyze and discuss the factor or factors that influence the way we communicate with others. Your essay should cause the reader to think critically about the influences.**

1. **Ask**

How much does gender – or other factors such as family background, cultural and ethnic environment and heritage, current friends and peer group, personality and individual drive, etc. – determine the nature of our speech, communication and interpersonal exchanges?

1. **Question**

Gender is an enormous influence on the way we communicate, as Deborah Tannen has pointed out, but other factors are more powerful.

1. **Clarify**

Among the factors that “make” our conversational style and even the quality of our relationships is individual personality.

1. **Investigate**

While gender differences are powerful with regard to the way people talk and relate to each other, a more powerful factor is a person’s family history, including ethnic and cultural, family relationships, and language background.

1. **Refine**

As you work on your thesis, remember to **keep the rest of your paper in mind at all times**. Sometimes your thesis needs to evolve as you develop new insights, find new evidence, or take a different approach to your topic.

In fact, now is the time to list the SPECIFIC facts, comparisons, anecdotes and descriptions for each of your key points that support your thesis.