**Writing Assignment #1**

**Due 12:30 PM (Sharp!), Wednesday, October 5th**

**Deafness**

To prepare for this writing assignment you will need to read the following sources.

1. Deaf President Now (wiki) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deaf_President_Now>
2. A World of Their Own <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/lifestyle/magazine/2002/03/31/a-world-of-their-own/abba2bbf-af01-4b55-912c-85aa46e98c6b/>
3. Deaf lesbians, “designer disability,” and the future of medicine

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1124279/>

Subsequently write an essay that addresses each of the following:

1. Using approximately 350 words, form your best argument for and against the Gallaudet students’ demand for the resignation of hearing President Dr. Elizabeth Zinser.
2. Using approximately 350 words, explain what you believe to be the best and worst arguments in “A World of Their Own”.
3. Using approximately 350 words, explain what you believe to be the best and worst arguments in “Deaf lesbians, “designer disability” and the future of medicine”.

Address these points *in the order described above, but do not number your responses.* Instead, your essay should smoothly transition across the above-stated issues. **Rubric:** **Your grade will be based on the quality of your writing style (i.e., grammar, clarity, succinctness, organization, and transitions), and on the *novelty* and *persuasiveness* of your prose.**

Use a ‘Times New Roman’ font, a ‘12’ point size and double spacing, which allows room for my feedback to you. **Your essay must be between 1,000-1,100 (inclusive) words in length. At the end of your response, please report your word count. Example: “Word Count = 1,049”.** In MS Word, you can determine the word count by highlighting your text, and selecting the “word count” icon beneath the “Review” tab.

Note: Your assignment should have a cover page indicating your **Slayter Box Number** (not your name), **Date**, **Writing Assignment 1**, and **Psych 340.** At 12:30 PM (sharp!) on the assigned day, an electronic copy of the writing assignment is due in BlackBoard. A printed copy is not needed. Please don’t be late. ☺

The assignment is worth 50 points of the 650 possible points for the course. Based on the above rubric, essays that I deem “satisfactory” for an upper-level course at an academically challenging college like ours will earn 72% of the points. Your essay will earn more or fewer points to the extent that it, respectively, exceeds or falls short of that “satisfactory” standard.

**Good luck, and most importantly, have fun with this assignment! ☺**

Feedback on Writing Style

1. **Spelling error**
2. **Plural / singular errors**
3. **Ineffective or incorrect punctuation**
4. **Inappropriate change in verb tense**
5. **Poor grammar**
6. **Omitted words/phrases or duplicate or extra words/phrases**
7. **Poor word-choice**
8. **Use subjunctive mood for hypotheticals -** [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subjunctive\_mood**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subjunctive_mood)
9. **Redundant use of words (within a sentence or across sentences) without parallelism**
10. **Lapse in parallelism -** [**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallelism\_(grammar)**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallelism_(grammar))
11. **Ineffective use of prepositions (limit prepositions to no more than two between verbs)**
12. **Ambiguous pronoun use (e.g., to whom does “it”, “s/he”, or “they” refer?)**
13. **Use of “prove” or “proof” (reserve those for complete certainty, i.e., mathematical proof)**
14. **Poor organization**
15. **Lapse in succinctness (“in order”) (limit sentences to no more than 35 words)**
16. **Lapse in clarity**
17. **Non sequitur, or other lapse in logic or coherence**
18. **Awkward phrasing or informal phrasing**
19. **Personification**
20. **Ambiguous comparison**
21. **Ambiguous negation (“not A or B”) or incorrect negation (“all that glitters is not gold”)**
22. **Subject / verb separation – s/b short or zero.**
23. **Each unit of discourse should make a single point.**
24. **Ineffective transition (between sentences, or paragraphs) - Put in the topical position old info that links back. Put in the stress position new info that you want the reader to emphasize. Also avoid “pseudo transitions” - placing the topical sentence for one paragraph as last sentence in the preceding paragraph.**
25. **Locating the action - (s/b in the verb) – Use action verbs rather than “being” verbs such as “is” “are” “was” “were” “have” “had”.** [**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nominalization**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nominalization)
26. **Idea requires additional development, evidence, or context**
27. **Emphasizes summary or opinion over analysis, synthesis, or argument**