

Assignment I: Narrative / Essay Writing

(suggested time—70 minutes)

Assignment

Write either a narrative or an essay about **the importance of learning in determining the course of a person's life**. You may wish to write about yourself or other people, real or fictional. You may set your writing in the past, present, or future.

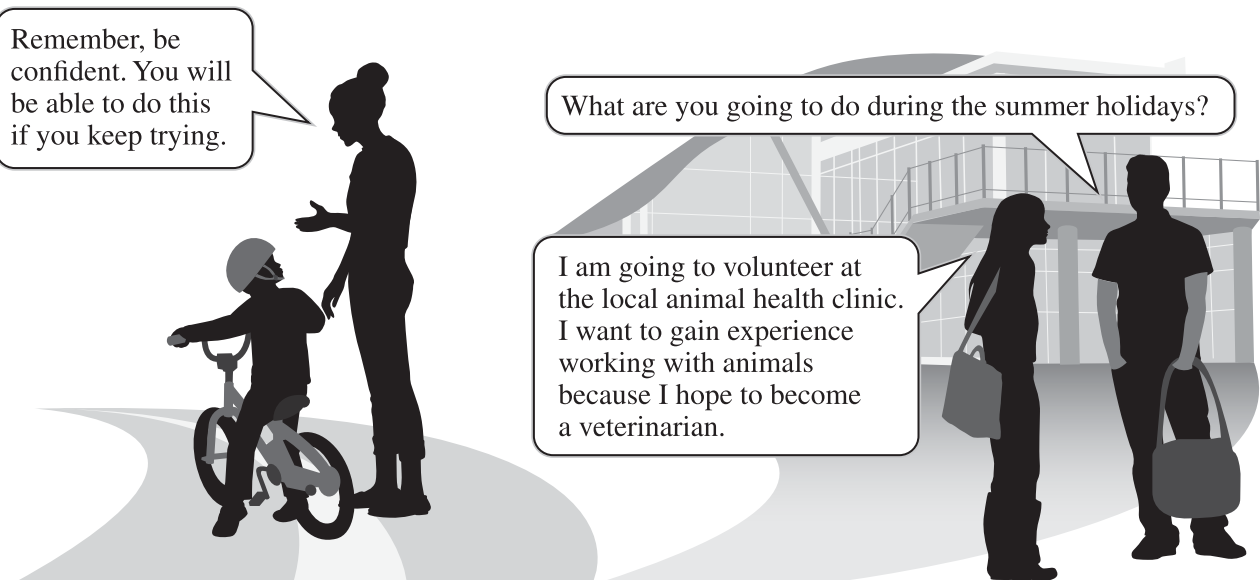
Ideas

The following material may give you ideas for your writing. **You do not have to refer directly to any of it.** Consider the knowledge and experience you have gained from reading, listening, viewing, discussing, thinking, or imagining.

Achievement is a pleasant thing,
But there's no end to conquering,
And wise men see
That what is done, however fair,
Cannot in any way compare
With what's to be.
And wise men's thoughts are ever turned
On secrets that are still unlearned.

Edgar A. Guest

It is ... education
which gives a man a clear
conscious view of his own
opinions and judgments, a
truth in developing them, an
eloquence in expressing them,
and a force in urging them.
John Henry Cardinal Newman



Guest, Edgar A. "The Future." In *Collected Verse of Edgar A. Guest*. 7th ed. Chicago: Reilly & Lee, 1943.
Newman, John Henry Cardinal. "Discourse VII: Knowledge Viewed in Relation to Professional Skill." In *The Idea of a University: Defined and Illustrated*. new impr. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1912.

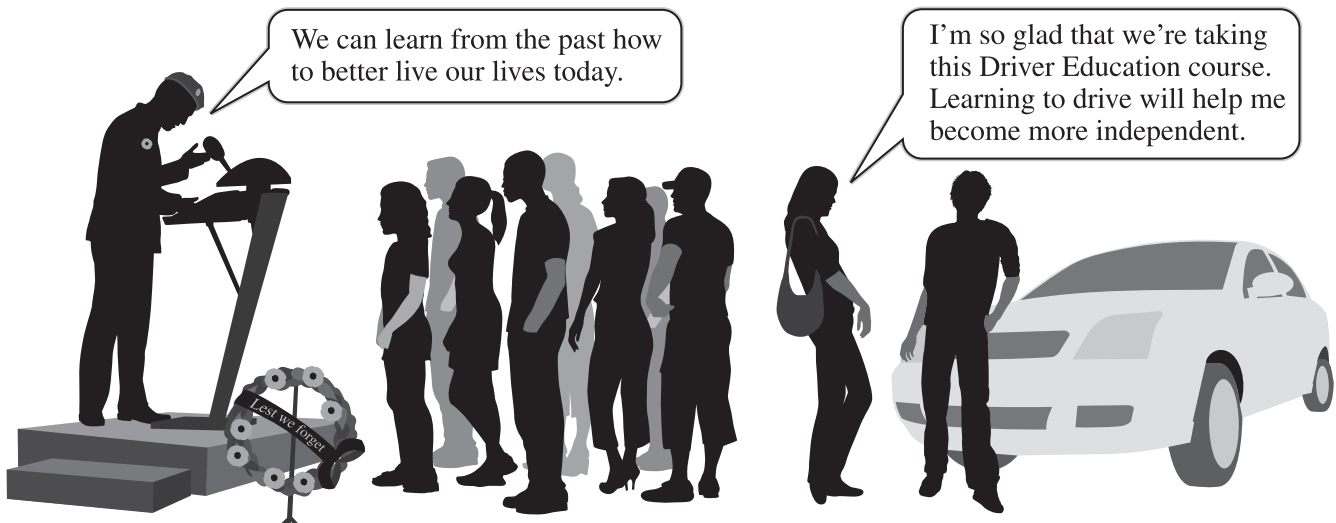
We see that a carpenter becomes a carpenter by learning certain things: that a pilot, by learning certain things, becomes a pilot. Possibly also in the present case the mere desire to be wise and good is not enough. It is necessary to learn certain things.

This is then the object of our search.

Epictetus

That the difference to be found in the manners and abilities of men is owing more to their education than to anything else, we have reason to conclude, that great care is to be had of the forming children's minds, and giving them that seasoning early, which shall influence their lives always after.

John Locke



Epictetus. "The Golden Sayings of Epictetus." Translated by Hastings Crossley. In *The Harvard Classics*. Edited by Charles W. Eliot. regd. ed. New York: P. F. Collier & Son, 1937.

Locke, John. *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*. rev. ed. Pitt Press Series. Cambridge: University Press, 1884.

When writing, be sure to

- **consider** your **audience**
- **focus** on your **purpose** and **point of view**
- **organize** your **thoughts** appropriately in sentences and paragraphs
- **use vocabulary** that is interesting and effective
- **edit** your **work** directly on your writing
- **budget** your **time**