

PROCESS ANALYSIS ESSAY

WRITING PROMPTS

Verbal / Linguistic

Take a difficult “how-to” document (e.g. bicycle assembly instructions, and IKEA furniture construction guide) and put it into words that make the process easy to understand. Describe the finished product and discuss what could happen if certain steps are left out of the process.

Musical / Rhythmic

Explain the steps of a musical process, such as playing the guitar, using a metronome, or singing a song. How will the music sound if even one step is left out? Describe the sounds after each step has been added on or completed.

Logical / Mathematical

List the steps a person would need to know to sign up for and build a Facebook page, or just log on to the Internet and go to specific websites. Explain and demonstrate with specific screen illustrations the results of each step in the process.

Visual / Spatial

Watch a documentary (e.g. a Ken Burns film on the Civil War, a Michael Moore film like *Fahrenheit 9/11* or *Bowling for Columbine*) to learn about how something happened. How well does the documentary seem to account for everything that actually occurred – are parts of the historical record left out or glossed over – what gaps in the historical record, if any, need to be filled in?

Intrapersonal

Think of a process you typically go through before you write an essay for this class. Does this ritual or set of practices ever change? What steps may be different and unique from assignment to assignment? What parts of the process are always there, every time you compose an essay?

Naturalist

Explain the steps for an outdoor adventure such as making a campfire, preparing a fish for cooking, or getting into a canoe. What are the consequences of not executing one or more of the required steps correctly or completely?

OR, recount the steps involved in a famous adventure from the past (like Sir Edmund Hillary’s first ascent of Mt. Everest, or John Wesley Powel’s first descent of the Colorado River down through the Grand Canyon). What exactly was involved in each of these complex adventures, and what might have gone wrong if the proper steps weren’t taken at the appropriate moments?