

## Writing to sources: Informative Essay Rough Draft [due 9th March]

In this unit, you have read a variety of perspectives on human intelligence. Both fiction and nonfiction texts have offered new ideas and explanations about the ways we think about and define human intelligence.

- **Assignment:**

Write an informative essay in which you address the Essential

Question: *In what different ways can people be intelligent?*

Consider how each selection you read reveals a different perspective on what intelligence means. Make sure that you integrate relevant quotations, facts, and examples to support your ideas. Use a formal style and tone in your writing.

- **Reread the Assignment:**

Review the assignment to be sure you fully understand it. The assignment must reference at least three of the academic words presented at the beginning of the unit. Be sure you understand each of the words given below in order to complete the assignment correctly. You also need to integrate at least three of the words into your essay.

- **Academic Vocabulary**

*assimilate ... tendency ... integrate ... observation ... documentation*

- **Review the Elements of an Effective Informative Essay**

Before you begin writing, read the Informative Essay Rubric. Once you have completed your first draft, check it against the rubric. If one or more of the elements is missing or not as strong as it could be, revise your essay to add or strengthen that component.

Write your essay directly on the next page. You need a representative title, the text must be size 12, type New Roman, and the length of the essay must be 500 words.

## **Essay Title: Sternberg's Triarchic Theory of Intelligence**

What are the different ways people can be intelligent? According to Sternberg (1985), a psychologist in Yale University, there are three ways a person can be intelligent. The following paragraphs will discuss Sternberg's three types of intelligence: practical, analytical, and creative intelligence.

Firstly, the first type of intelligence proposed by Sternberg is practical intelligence. Sternberg explains that type of intelligence in the following quote: "A practically strong person, one with high common sense, is good at applying ideas and persuading others, but they may not be as good at analyzing ideas or coming up with their own ideas." Sternberg also mentioned that he came up with this theory due to his observation of three students he taught at Yale University. The first, Celia, was practically intelligent. She did fairly well in school, and got average scores and grades. However, when it came to applying for jobs after graduation, she got an offer at every place she went to. This is due to the good communication skills people with practical intelligence have. They're able to know exactly what their audience wants to hear and can integrate what they learned into real life problems and solve them. These people usually end up with leadership jobs because they have good communication skills and can adapt to their environment very well. Barrington Irving exhibits this type of intelligence, he was able to convince several manufacturers to donate parts so he can build his own plane, and he also managed to convince a company to sponsor him. He figured out how to overcome several problems like lack of money by washing planes and practiced on a flight simulator game to gain experience.

The second type of intelligence, analytical intelligence, is usually found in people who do very well in school. "One, whom I have called Alice, had great grades and test scores. She was admitted to the graduate program," Sternberg says. "She proved to be very good at what the standardized tests would be good at. If you gave her a problem, she almost always could solve it, so she did well her first year. But she lacked creativity and had trouble coming up with ideas of her own, so by the end of her studies, she was floundering for lack of ideas." People with analytical intelligence, like Alice, do exceptionally well in standardized tests and procedural tasks. However, they don't have creativity and therefore have a difficult time coming up with new unique ideas and solutions. This type of intelligence is displayed in "Blue Nines and Red Words", Daniel Tammet is extremely good with mathematical problems due to his savant syndrome, he excels in areas that involve logical thinking.

The final type of intelligence in Sternberg's theory is creative intelligence. This type of intelligence is found in artists and other people who have jobs that don't follow the standardized system. Sternberg says "A second student, whom I have called Barbara, had decent grades but lousy standardized test scores on her GRE. But she had done extremely creative research as an

undergraduate. She was rejected. I was the only faculty member who voted for her and decided she should be given a chance, so I hired her as a research associate. She did terrifically and was admitted a couple of years later. But ‘Barbaras’ are rarely given a chance in our educational system, because standardized tests, if anything, penalize creativity.” People who are similar to Barbra, can come up with amazing ideas by thinking outside the box and beyond what is given to them. Unfortunately, this type of intelligence is not compatible with the standardized testing used widely everywhere. Therefore they sadly do not go far, but can flourish and become successful in an environment that’s friendly to their type of intelligence. Charlie, from “Flowers for Algernon”, shows this type of intelligence. Before the operation, he never saw anything the way others see it. For example when he was represented with the Rorschach test, he didn’t see the ink blot as an image, but he imagined a fountain pen has spilled on a tablecloth. This shows that Charlie thinks outside the box and not in the same way others do.

As illustrated above, in Sternberg's theory, there are three types of intelligences. Practical intelligence, which relates to common sense, and “street smart” people with this intelligence have outstanding communication skills. Analytical intelligence, which is the ability to solve and analyze problems very well, but lack creativity. The last type of intelligence is creative intelligence which refers to the ability to think outside the box and through a new light to come up with efficient solutions. Intelligence is truly an intriguing and complex area in the psychological field and Sternberg's theory is a good contribution to the journey to understand intelligence.