**How Do We Learn?**

**Subject area:** English Language Arts, Composition 1

**Grade level/band**: 11–12

**STUDENT PROMPT SECTION**

1. **Task context:**

We learn things all the time, but how do we best learn? For this task, you will analyze a significant learning experience from your life by applying the ideas presented in research on learning and education. To start, identify a significant learning experience you have had in your life, one in which you learned something important and valuable. It does not have to be something you learned in school, though it can be. Before you write, consider the following: What did you learn and why is it valuable and meaningful to you? How did you learn it? Did you learn from a coach, a parent, a friend, a teacher, or someone else? Or did you learn it on your own?

The next step is to read Paulo Freire’s essay “The Banking Concept of Education,” in which he explains the banking concept of education and the problem-posing method. Then, you should conduct independent research about learning and education.

After identifying your learning experience and reading Freire’s essay, your task is to write an essay that narrates your significant learning experience and then analyzes your learning experience using Freire’s essay and your other research to guide and support your analysis. What did you learn, and how did you learn it? Was it an example of banking education, the problem-posing method, or something else? If someone helped you learn, what was his or her role? If you learned on your own, how did you do so?

After you have applied Freire and your research to your learning experience, you should come back to the initial question: How do we best learn, or in this case, how do **you** best learn? Draw on your independent research to support your analysis.

1. **The task:**

After identifying a significant learning experience from your life and reading Paulo Freire’s “The Banking Concept of Education” and other research on learning and education, write a 3- to 4-page paper in which you narrate and analyze your learning experience. Use what you have learned from Freire and other authors to analyze your learning experience.

Your paper should:

* Narrate and describe a significant learning experience from your life.
* Support your analysis of your learning experience by using evidence and direct quotations from Freire’s essay and other sources.
* Demonstrate that you have strengthened your writing through multiple revisions, taking into account the feedback you receive from your peers.
* Employ standard English grammar and usage.
* Use in-text citations and a Works Cited page to cite your sources using MLA citation format or another style that your instructor selects.
1. **Materials/resources:**

Required Reading:

Paulo Freire’s “The Banking Concept of Education.” This essay is Chapter 2 in his book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and is available online at:

http://learning.writing101.net/wp-content/readings/freire\_the\_banking\_concept\_of\_education.pdf

1. **Time requirements:**

Depending on your class schedule, you may have two to three weeks to conduct your research and draft your paper. Follow your instructor’s directions for any interim deadlines during this process.