

Diagnostic Essay

OVERVIEW

A diagnostic essay allows your teacher to “diagnose” what skills you bring to the class and what skills you need to develop in order to meet the course objectives. It will allow you to receive early feedback on your writing without worrying about a grade (the diagnostic essay is graded pass/fail for completion). The diagnostic essay will also help you and your teacher determine if you have been placed in the appropriate level of class.

Your Diagnostic Essay is worth XX points. You will receive full points for submitting a complete, on-time essay.

YOUR TASK

You have read the opinion-editorial “What students know that experts don’t: School is all about signaling, not skill-building” by Bryan Caplan. You will have the next 45 mins to complete your essay, according to the prompt below.

You can—and should—refer to the original article, but you should not do any additional research. You can use the first-person “I” voice in your essay.

When you are done, please submit the essay to the Assignments folder in Aims Online. Put your name on the paper, but otherwise do not worry about paper formatting. Hand your copy of the op-ed to your instructor before you leave.

Prompt: **First, briefly summarize the main idea from the article (a few sentences). Then, write about whether you agree or disagree, using evidence to support your position. Aim for 1 page, double-spaced.**