

AVID 12
Final Exam, Semester 2
2016

For a final assessment of your accomplishments in AVID class, I would like you to write me a paper that reflects on your experience in high school and in AVID and is insightful, thought provoking and, absolutely and without question, well-written and thoroughly proofread and edited. This paper should be a lot like a lot of papers you will write in your freshman year of college: three to four pages in length (double spaced, one-inch margins) and displaying a college level mastery of academic tone and organization.

Prompt: You can reflect on any particular aspect of your experience in high school and/or AVID that sticks with you, but I suggest that **one way** to organize your thoughts might be to create an original metaphor for your experience and build the essay around that. Another way to go is chronological—but that tends to turn into a less than inspiring catalog of your grades in different years, etc., that doesn't offer you the best framework for really exploring your thoughts and feelings about your experience.

Hint: Please use an ORIGINAL metaphor—do not talk about how life is like a baseball game or how love is a rose or how the USA is like a salad bowl. Maybe AVID is a pickle? A new pair of shoes? Maybe high school is circus, a spice rack—whatever. Be original!

Another good way to go is to focus on a particular event or activity that you are involved with and focus on that—expand and explain how it is a good way to talk about how much you have learned or grown or changed or focused your energies over the last four years. **EXAMPLE:** A sport or a class you love: going from learning and improving to teaching and coaching little kids—use that as a tool to talk about growing up and your school/AVID experience. **EXAMPLE:** How do you spend your lunch time and what does that say about how you have changed over the years—maybe lunch periods can tell about a lot of things in your high school/AVID experience—maybe not!

Hint: Be sincere and original—be yourself and give yourself enough time to write and revise and edit and express your true voice. Do NOT write a formula essay!

Thanks,

Mrs. Eddy and Mrs. Ingerson

My Family

(AVID Final Essay Example #1)

You know that family? That family that you have to introduce to your boyfriend and hope that he doesn't run the other way. There's crazy Uncle Jim who always makes inappropriate jokes, grandma Sue who is constantly complaining about her bunions, and cousin Steve who awkwardly hovers in the shadows. None the less, they are all one big family that loves, supports, encourages, and helps one another move forward. I'm a part of family just like this. Let me tell you about them and how they have made me the person I am today.

When I was a sophomore in high school I had a very spunky and energetic Aunt T that was constantly telling me to organize my binder. "Taylor how do you expect to succeed if you never organize with highlighters and sticky notes? No one ever did anything great without dividers." At first I never listened and I didn't understand what the big deal was. I mean come on it was just a binder! But I quickly learned that the other kids in my family had really nice organized binders as well. Even quicker, I noticed that the kids with the best binders had the best grades so I did my best to have the most organized binder Aunt T had ever seen. Because of my Aunt T I developed new skills that I use even today and plan to use far after high school.

Aunt T didn't just teach me how to have a sparkling binder, she also taught me how to have fun and that it's okay every once in a while to relax and put the homework aside for a night to pause. Aunt T and I had fun memories and jokes that will always be in my memories. The time I had

with her will be cherished and I wish I could've gotten to know my Aunt T better before she moved on to bigger and better things.

Just about the same time my Aunt T left for her new job, I was about to enter my junior year of high school. During this time my dad's second cousin twice removed was in town for a while and we got to know him a little better. He was a lot shorter than my dad described though. Despite his height he had a lot of charisma that came with him. I remember him swinging the door open and yelling, "Hey! Get back to work!" What he was referring to was the big project my family and I were working on. We were trying to learn how to prep for college and he was the pro at prepping for college. He was so strict and wanted to everything a certain way but in the end it all made sense because he had a plan. A plan that was set from the beginning that he knew would work. Oh I almost forgot to tell you his name! My dad's second cousin twice removed was called Reid. I still don't know why anyone would name their child after a type of plant though.

Although he seemed to be a bit distant since he wasn't directly related to me, I always felt like he wanted to help out and do the best he could for me and the rest of our quirky little family. Yes there were times when most of us just wanted to take a nap right then and there but he pushed us and pushed us until we were ready to finally jump on our own; just until we were ready to jump into senior year. The last year we had all together.

After Reid left town, my sweet Auntie Christy came for my whole senior year because she said she didn't want to miss a single thing. She was so caring and did everything in her power to make sure I had everything I needed all the time. She never raised her voice at me even when I probably deserved it and she was so patient with some of my more rambunctious family members. My

Auntie Christy taught me the most valuable lessons in such a short time. She taught me that even no matter what you are going through there is always a reason to be happy and smile. She taught me how to be kind and loving to those who may not be the same back and how to never hold it against them. My Auntie Christy was my favorite visitor in our big house filled with crazy family members and I wish that I had had so much more time to get to know and learn from.

My other aunts and uncles were always there for me but weren't as excited about me moving onto college and real life as she was. She was always talking about us getting to college and how badly she wanted us all to do exactly what we wanted and be able to reach our dreams. Sometimes she would spend days making us fill out scholarship after scholarship to be able to make our dreams realities. But she was right, you can't have everything you want if you don't work hard for it. Life moves quickly and unless you take control of the little time you have, life is going to pass you right on by.

My crazy family may argue and sometimes be a little loud, but I love them and they've made me who I always wanted to be. Someone who doesn't judge based off of what we see or what we hear from others. Someone who isn't scared to try new things and go outside the norm. Someone who will sprint, run, jog, walk, or crawl across a finish line just to reach my goals. My family is forever and I am so blessed to be able to have them in my life.

My family may be crazy, but they're my family and I have absolutely no idea what I'd be doing or where I would be without them. I don't know if you could tell or not but we aren't just a normal family. This was a story about my AVID family and without their support through high school I probably wouldn't be going to the college I am. Thank you to my family.

AVID Example Essay #2

My time in AVID has been relatively short in comparison to some others, I joined halfway through my junior year. It was strange because I could feel that most of the people in this class were people who had joined the class in the beginning of high school, so I felt like I was almost intruding. The class was almost exactly what I thought it would be like, aside from the strong sense of family.

The process to join the class was interesting. I was called down to the office for a meeting. With no idea what to expect, I went into the titan room and sat down. There were a few people I recognized but no friends. I wasn't sure what to expect from this meeting, all I knew was that I had a few friends in AVID so I should give it a try.

The meeting wasn't too long or boring; it covered the main point of the class. The main point being individual motivation. My initial thought was that this class was an oxymoron. How could Advancement Via Individual Determination be a class? If it was truly individual determination, why would I need this class? As you can see I was a bit skeptical at first.

My skepticism didn't stop me from joining the class, it actually was the reason I joined. I wanted to find out what it was all about, how it was beneficial to students.

The interview wasn't too difficult, Mr. Holcomb and Mrs. Romine asked me a few simple questions that had to do with my future plans. At the time I wanted to join the military, I've grown a lot since then. The process ended and I was notified that I made it into the program.

The first day of second semester was my first time in that class. Mr. Holcomb put us new kids into groups of two with AVID students that had been in the class for long periods of time. It was intended to ease the process into the class. We were told all of these strange rules that needed to followed, like that I needed a 3 ring binder. I hated that 3 ring binder, and asked myself constantly how it was that these blanket rules were there to promote “individual determination”. I was not off to a pleasant start.

I'd like to say there was a point in my AVID career where it all changed for the better.

I grinded through a semester of tutorials, cornell notes, and that evil 3 ringed binder. I made up a fake tutorial on something I knew already almost every time; I don't think I ever did a successful set of cornell notes outside of AVID, there were all done in class; and the 3 ringed binder hindered my learning ability because of how big, clunky, and difficult it was to use.

I remember talking to some of the people in there and continuously feeling like I didn't belong. Everyone kept talking about how amazing Mrs. Yates was and that Mr. Holcomb sucks because they didn't get to just dick around in class anymore, there were actual lesson plans to be followed. I didn't find any of the AVID concepts helpful.

My grade started slipping in some of the other parts of the school. I was getting a D in one of my classes (I forget which one it was at the moment). I was getting notifications saying I would be kicked out of AVID if I did not get it up. That made no sense to me, why would I be kicked out for having a bad grade in a class that was designed to help you get your grades up? But I guess that wasn't the point.

My favorite part of the class at that point was the day before the grading day at each 6 weeks. We did nothing. We ate snacks. We talked.

By the time that semester came to an end, I felt like I had learned nothing. My grades weren't any better, but I had a couple new acquaintances.

First semester started of senior year and I again wasn't optimistic. Some people dropped out of the class and I was wondering whether or not I should have done the same. I was not looking forward to another semester of risking getting a bad grade because I didn't need help in a class (tutorials) and I still felt somewhat like an outsider. The class hadn't changed much and we were still lying to ourselves about being individually motivated.

Second semester came around. I was on the brink of dropping out, but I had started a relationship with an AVID classmate: Kaylee. AVID was the only class I had with her and I didn't want to lose it. So I stayed in. What a huge mistake. The relationship is a story for another time, but let's just say it didn't work out. So now I was stuck in a class that I already didn't like all too well, and to top it off, she was still in it.

I began coming to class less. And continued not showing up as much as I should have. All of these factors have really left a sour taste in my mouth for the AVID program.

As I look back over the past year and a half, the best memory I had was when we went to Portland State University. The only reason it was so great was because I ended up enrolling there. Senior year is ending, and I don't feel accomplished from this class.

So to fulfill the metaphor requirement, I thought long and hard as I wrote this paper the morning of its due date: AVID is like adderall-- it's helpful to some, but definitely not for everyone.

Elizabeth Phillips
Period 4
06/02/14

AVID Final Example #3

AVID is like building a house. It starts with blueprints or a plan to get started. Then when you actually get started, you work from the bottom up. The foundation or the base is the first step. In AVID that would be yourself in general; who you are before you join the AVID family. Next would be the frame. Everything we learn in class is the frame work of the house. Then, you put it all together. You use what you learn in AVID in other classes and it helps you prepare for college. Lastly, you can decorate it. You choose where you want to go to college. What you want your campus to look like, in what city or state, etc. It all comes back to getting a plan started.

Like the blueprints of a house, you have to make a choice on what is important and what you want. The decision to join AVID is a large one. It is a four year commitment if you start as a freshman. However, I didn't start as a freshman, I joined in during the second semester of sophomore year, a decision I still regret to this day. I was not an A+ student in any way, shape or form. I finally learned the basics like how to take Cornell notes, how to use a planner correctly, even how to organize a huge three inch binder. It helped me become who I am today and made me into the person I wanted to be in the future.

Next is the frame of the house. You start to build these walls and create something that will be beautiful. The frame in AVID is everything you will learn in the class, like Cornell notes, tutorials and TRF's, and how to stay organized. Once you learn the basics of AVID you can put your frame together to make the structure of the house. Then, once you have the structure built, you can now decorate it exactly how you want.

Decorating the house is like deciding where you want to go to college. You make of list of supplies you are going to need, like deciding what necessities you need at your school. Once you have the supplies picked out you can start to lay your design in the house; laying down your design in AVID is when you start to submit applications and applying for scholarships. None of this could be done alone; you need other workers to help you out along the way.

In AVID, my peers are also known as the other workers. My success could not be done alone. Just like you need people to help build a house, you need help with AVID. All the teachers are very welcoming and loving. Very thankful for all they do.

I'm happy to say I'm going to Western Oregon University with \$10,000 I'm grants. I plan on studying early childhood studies and hopefully one day be a first grade teacher. I can thank everyone in AVID for helping me get there.