**ENGLISH 1301 DIAGNOSTIC ESSAY**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**HCC EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Personal EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The English 1301 diagnostic essay has as its purpose **to** confirm in writing your placement into English 1301. The Houston Community College English Department wants you placed in an English course where you will learn and succeed.

**TOPIC:** In a short (about 500 words) thesis-controlled essay with an introduction, body, and conclusion, write a brief essay in which you summarize your history as a writer. What are the main kinds of writing you have done? What successes and problems have you experienced as a writer? How might this course help your writing most? Also include a specific objective (or objectives) you would like to accomplish in English 1301 this semester. Your essay should include:

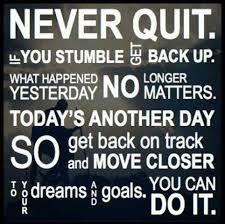
1. a short introduction
2. a thesis
3. at least two to three body paragraphs with relevant topic sentences
4. ideas developed with support sentences/specific details
5. clear sentences free from major errors (fragment, run-on, comma splice, garbled sentence)
6. paragraph unity (content does not diverge)
7. coherence (ideas flow smoothly)
8. correct word form (such as –ed and –ing endings as well a plural/singular forms)
9. correct punctuation
10. a short conclusion

**NOTE:** This essay is for diagnostic purposes only and does not receive a grade. If your essay contains numerous errors, I will contact you privately through email or phone conversation to discuss your performance on the essay. If you wish to remain in the course, I will recommend steps you can take (such as tutoring and on-line writing practice) for a successful semester.

Please answer the following questions

1. Have you taken ESL (English as a second language) or developmental (remedial) classes at the college level?

2. If you answered **yes**, list which courses: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Example of Diagnostic Essay Submission**

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**English 1301 Diagnostic Essay**

Every individual's path as a writer is unique, influenced by personal experiences, interests, and ambitions. As one navigates the realms of writing, they encounter successes and challenges that mold their craft. This essay delves into the diverse journey my writing and exploring the main types of writing, I have undertaken, the triumphs and hurdles I have faced, and how this English 1301 course can aid in enhancing my writing skills. The evolution of my writer's journey is a tapestry woven with various types of writing, a multitude of accomplishments, and inevitable obstacles.

Throughout my journey, I have engaged in an array of writing styles, highlighting my versatility. From academic essays that exhibit critical thinking skills to persuasive pieces that sway opinions, my repertoire has expanded. Additionally, I have dabbled in creative writing, sculpting vivid imagery through descriptive narratives and delving into the realms of imagination. These diverse ventures have led to successes such as published articles, commendable grades, and the admiration of peers. However, the path of a writer is seldom smooth, marred by challenges that test one's dedication and resilience. I have had writer's block, which is a relentless foe and it has cast shadows on my creativity, stalling the progress. Moreover, grappling with self-doubt and the pursuit of perfectionism has at times hindered my writing confidence. The critical gaze of my peers and instructors, while essential for growth, has occasionally left me vulnerable to uncertainty.

In light of my writing journey's complexities, an English 1301 course holds the promise of addressing these challenges and fostering exponential growth. The course provides a structured environment for refining grammar and punctuation, ensuring that the writer's thoughts are impeccably communicated. The comprehensive curriculum, spanning from analysis to argumentation, nurtures critical thinking, enabling me to dissect complex ideas and construct compelling arguments. Through peer workshops and constructive feedback, I can conquer self-doubt, embracing the iterative nature of the writing process.

The journey of a writer is an intricate one, characterized by triumphs, challenges, and unending growth. Embracing a variety of writing styles, as a writer, I have achieved commendable milestones while overcoming obstacles that have fortified my resolve. This English 1301 course now stands as a beacon of opportunity, promising to enhance my writing skills, dispel doubts, and elevate my craft. With a specific objective to refine persuasive writing, this semester holds the potential to unlock new realms of creativity and eloquence, shaping me into a more accomplished and confident writer.

1. Have you taken ESL (English as a second language) or developmental (remedial) classes at the college level?

2. If you circled **yes**, list which courses: