

Firstname Lastname (Sample)

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English 102

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Reverse Outline for Sample Essay 1

I. Introduction

A. Introduces the topic of young adults going to work, 2-year or a 4-year college after graduating high school.

1. Mentions the two articles and writers that will be analyzed throughout the essay.
2. Shares how Liz Addison's "Two Years are better than Four" and Rick Perlstein's "What's the Matter with College?" use rhetorical appeals to persuade their audience.
3. Thesis: Liz Addison uses the rhetorical appeals more persuasively for an audience of USC Upstate students.

II. Body

A. Liz Addison argues that a community college is just as good or better than a four-year university.

1. Addison's ethos is not strong at first.
 - a. She does not have educational qualifications to be considered an expert on this topic.
 - b. She is 38, older than the typical college student
 - c. However, she does have experience with community colleges because she attended two.
2. Addison's pathos is strong.
 - a. She writes her article in a way that is easy understood by an average reader: her use of language and dialect would enable college students to relate to her.
 - b. Pathos is also used by provoking negative feelings about Rick Perlstein's, particularly in her use of the phrase "University of Privilege"
3. Addison's logos is strong.
 - a. She uses analogy: "The Community College system is America's hidden public service gem."
 - b. She uses testimony and authority by quoting Thomas Jefferson.

- B. Rick Perlstein argues that too many students make decisions about where to study based purely on practical terms, not on what they will learn or experience.
1. Perlstein might seem to have stronger ethos, but for an audience of college students, he does not.
 - a. Strength: He has published many articles in the *New York Times*
 - b. Strength: He has written two books.
 - c. Weakness: His writing style makes him seem part of an older generation.
 2. His use of pathos would appeal more to an older generation than a younger one.
 - a. He tries to instill nostalgia in his readers.
 - b. His appeal would make college students – or potential college students – feel hopeless. “College as America used to understand it is coming to an end.”
 3. His use of logos is mediocre for Upstate students
 - a. The multiple pieces of information gathered from students are an example of supporting a generalization with examples.
 - b. Perlstein interviewed college students and uses their quotes as testimony and authority, but the quotes he shares would not be persuasive to Upstate students.

III. Conclusion

- A. Both articles are trying to persuade readers about college.
- B. Liz Addison’s article is more persuasive to USC Upstate Students.