**Sample Student Essay #1**

Attendance Policy

[Midterm essay from developmental ESL writing class (below first-year composition).

***Prompt: Should college or university professors require their students to attend class regularly?***

Last week, I heard one of my friends complained the attendance policies at Sac State. She said, "It's very strict." Her grades dropped from "A" to a "B" because she had four absences in her class. On the other hand, in the article, "Students, faculty battle over attendance" by Jason Casillas, some English professor said, "They feel if they didn't implement such policies, no one would show up for classes." To me, I think college or university professors should not require their students to attend class regularly because of the following reasons.

First, students at the university are an adult and they should be their own responsibility. In the State Hornet article, "Students, faculty battle over attendance" by Jason Casillas, senior communications studies major Laura Henningsen said, "Students are responsible adults who can determine themselves how to best utilize their academic careers." All students know that college/university is to prepare them for the real life in the future. It provides student best knowledge and good careers. If students does good in college, they will have bright life in their future. In addition, most students have to pay their own tuition. If they didn't do well in their classes, then they have to retake it again. As in the State Hornet's article, Carson said, "Since we're paying for our education, it should be our choice whether attend and pass." I agree with Carson's idea. We have to pay a lot of money for our tuition. We also spending a lot of times to study for tests and to do assignments. When we are taking some classes, our goal is stuyding and passing that course. Attending class regularly is not important as students do well in the class. For example, four years ago, I took one of my programming class and my professor didn't required his students to attend class regularly. Unexpected, I missed more than three absences. However, I did very well in the class, and I got "A" in the class. Therefore, professor should not require their students to attend class regularly because students at college/university are responsible adults, they should be on their own.

Secondly, students may get sick and they could not attend in the class regularly. For example, one of my friend, Lan, she is very smart, but she is not in healthy. She often get sick. She told me that some of her classes required attendance regularly, but she didn't went to class regularly because of sickness. Her teachers oftenly gave pop quiz to students. all quizzes in her class is 20% of total grade and she missed most of her quizzes. Even though she got 95% and above on all her tests, she did all her assignments. At the end, she could not got "A" in her class. She got "B" on most of her classes. At the result, she was not accepted into the medical school because her GPA was lower than 3.5. Lan missed her opportunity to become a doctor; eventhough she was very intelligent. Her goal is to become a doctor so she will know how to take care herself. Because she missed attendance from her classes, her grades dropped "radically," so she could not accomplish her goal. Therefore, professor should not require their students to attend class regularly.

Many students have complained about college/university attendance policies. It is not good for them because sometimes they sick and couldn't go to class. They are adults and they should be on their own choice as to whether or not they attend class regularly.

**Sample Student Essay #2**

[Diagnostic sample from first-year composition class; international student from Korea.]

Writing prompt: *Improving my reading and writing skills will be critical to my success as a college student.*

I agreed with the statement: the reading and writing skills do important role for successful academic life. The reading and writing are connected with every academic life. To learn something new from the lectures, students have to read textbooks or paper, and to express your understating, students have to write down on the answer sheets.

Having the improved reading and writing skills are great advantage to a college students because you can be finished the lots of reading materials for lectures on time, and you can understand better and express your idea effective.

Once the quarter is started, the college students have to read various reading materials. Those could be for their majors or general education classes.

However, the reading materials are sometimes overwhelming amount to read or difficult to understands depend on your reading habit. However, if you know the way of reading which has different purpose, you could save your time to read.

For example, my major is engineering. I have several thick text books each quarter.

When I was freshman, I tried to read all books, every single page in the textbook. I spent many time to read them all expecting I would get good grades. However, at the end of semester when I got a transcript for this quarter, my grads were not good as much as I expected. When I became a junior year and get used to

study engineering subject, I understood the way of using the textbooks and studying. Although I spend less time than freshman I spend, my grads were improved.

Secondly, as improving the reading and writing skill, you can understand better and explain your idea in better way. When I took a literature class for general education, I was uncomfortable to read the textbook. The structure of sentences in the textbook was different compared with the major textbooks. The sentences of engineering textbook are normally simple and clear. There are no metaphors and no hidden meaning. However the literature reading had many hidden meaning in one sentence and I had to find the hidden meaning and write the complex sentence about these. The literature class made me awake of the importance of reading and writing skill.