

The American Yawp

VOLUME I: to 1877

Essay 1

Understanding education and democracy through a study of Benjamin Franklin

The late eighteenth-century was a time of major social change. The American Revolution was more than an independence movement. It was a rethinking of how to organize society and how a free person should behave. Benjamin Franklin invites us to consider how we should organize our society and how we should live, especially when it comes to understanding education, labor, and democracy.

In between 1,200 to 1,500 words, use [Benjamin Franklin's autobiography](#) to answer the question, "What is the role of education and labor in a democratic society?"

Be sure to have a clear argument that you defend with relevant evidence. Organize your paper with a logical structure and use clear topic sentences and transitions to help your reader understand the logic of your organization. Edit your paper thoroughly to avoid errors and to improve readability. Give your paper a title that reflects your argument.

Grading criteria:

- **Argument: 25%** Does your paper have a clear, singular, specific argument that answers the question?
- **Evidence: 25%** Do you use all of the relevant evidence to defend your argument?
- **Organization: 25%** Does your paper have a logical structure and use clear topic sentences and transitions?
- **Clarity: 25%** Is your prose efficient, crisp and polished, free of excessive passive voice or distracting spelling or grammatical errors?

Formatting:

- 12-pt., Times New Roman font, double-spaced
- 1" margins
- 1200-1500 words (4-5 full, double-spaced pages)

Due **DATE** through **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

* For this assignment, you may only use the *Autobiography*.