

# Part III, Section 1

## Additional Essay Questions: University Issues

### **Academic language and the challenge of reading for learning about science (p. 158)**

Catherine E. Snow

1. Argue for or against the following statement: The article “Academic language and the challenge of reading for learning about science” relies on academic language to make its points.
2. Contrast the writing in this article with a piece of writing you believe does not conform to the conventions of academic writing. Carefully demonstrate the differences between the two.
3. Using Catherine Snow’s definition of academic language, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this type of writing.

### **Tracking affect and academic success across university: Happy students benefit from bouts of negative mood (p. 163)**

Erin T. Barker *et al*

1. Summarize the methodology used by these researchers to assess positive and negative moods and suggest at least one other process which might be used to identify and measure the relative happiness of university students.
2. In paragraph 24, the authors state that, “[w]eighted effects codes for students’ biological sex (women, men), parent education (whether or not students reported at least one university-educated parent), and ethnicity (White, Asian, another ethnicity) showed no associations with GPA.” In an essay, discuss why these factors might make a difference in GPA and provide a possible explanation for why this was not the case.

3. Write an essay in which you explain how the results of Barker *et al.*'s research might be utilized in information offered to first-year university students.

### **Social norms of alcohol, smoking, and marijuana use within a Canadian university setting (p. 175)**

Kelly P. Arbour-Nicitopoulos *et al.*

1. In an organized essay, summarize and explain the contents of Table 2 (p. 178).
2. In paragraph 16, the authors say that “being in a relationship and living away from home were also associated with greater alcohol use.” Why would these factors lead to greater alcohol use among university students? Are there other factors to consider? Write an essay exploring these questions.
3. Write an essay persuading first-year university students to abstain from the use of alcohol and marijuana.

### **Universities, governments and industry: Can the essential nature of universities survive the drive to commercialize? (p. 182)**

Simon N. Young

1. Young concludes his essay with the following statement: “Although I would like to be able to end this editorial on a more hopeful note, I am concerned about these cultural changes, and I do not see any solution.” Write an essay that proposes solutions to the dilemmas he presents.
2. Using the definitions provided in the essay, write an essay that contrasts examples of curiosity-driven research with examples of commercially-driven research.
3. In paragraph 3, Young mentions two universities in thirteenth-century Italy that were student controlled (i.e., students elected professors and fixed their salaries). Do you think this system would work today? Write a cost–benefit analysis of this approach to the university.

### **Intellectuals and democracy (p. 187)**

Mark Kingwell

1. Is post-secondary education all about jobs? Does Kingwell support the view that “education must be intimately linked to work” and “doing work while ‘over-qualified’ is a bad thing” (paragraph 21)? Using your own experience, argue the advantages—or disadvantages—of an education in the humanities.
2. In paragraph 6, Kingwell refers to the annual *Maclean's* higher education supplement. What is this supplement? Do you recommend it as a valuable resource for students? Why or why not?
3. What is democracy? Write an extended definition of democracy and explain how Kingwell uses the term in his argument.