

Writing Assignment 2

Due Wednesday Oct, 7 at the start of class.

Overview

For the past couple of weeks, we have been working on *circuit bending* in class. Circuit bending as a creative art form has enjoyed [increasing attention recently](#), but it's not a new endeavor. Reed Ghazala is credited as being its originator, and, as is true of many artists, Mr. Ghazala states that he "felt compelled to pursue circuit bending." Please read Mr Ghazala's account of his life and circuit bending in the [attached article](#). In that article, Mr Ghazala shares many feels and thoughts that might be considered controversial. For example, he suggests that, "Circuit-bending, seen as art, was inevitable," and that some circuit-bent instruments are "living instruments." He also describes his path as one that was not fostered by our educational system, but was instead driven by personal exploration.

In this writing assignment, you are to explore an idea or question stemming from Mr. Ghazala's article. I invite you to consider one of two questions that I find particularly compelling: 1) Is it possible to devise a conventional education curriculum that would foster and rewarded Mr Ghazala's ambitions while still meeting the requirements levied on our existing system? 2) Is it possible for an engineer to bring the same kind of creativity to their work that Mr Ghazala brings to his? These are just suggestions, you may choose any question or idea that is suggested by the article.

Requirements

Write a one to two page persuasive (a.k.a., [argumentative](#)) essay that presents your position on a question stemming from Mr Ghazala's article. Clearly state the question that you have chosen as well as your position on that question. Your **thesis statement should be a one sentence summary of your argument**. It must not only state your opinion regarding the question, but also your justification. For example, if you choose to address whether circuit-bent instruments are "living instruments," your thesis statement might be something like:

A living instrument must be "one with the artist;" it is an extension of his being that is tangible to an audience and no electronic toy, no matter how extensively modified it is, can fill this requirement.

After stating your thesis in the first paragraph, use the remaining paragraphs to support that thesis. Each paragraph should present a distinct step within your argument. Proof read your paper a day after you write it. Make sure you:

1. clearly state the question you are addressing.
2. state your opinion and describe your supporting arguments, using facts, quotations, and other well-articulated evidence.
3. anticipate and address reader concerns and give counter-arguments.
4. structure your writing in an organized way.
5. choose precise and effective language.
6. use the active voice.
7. double space your paper and use a 12 pt font.