

Samuelson, Robert J. "Ambition and Its Enemies." *Newsweek* 23 Aug. 1999:57.

In "Ambition and Its Enemies," Robert Samuelson discusses the advantages and disadvantages to the United States of the characteristic of ambition.

Respond in a carefully developed essay to ONE of the following three choices.

1. If you believe Samuelson's analysis of the effects of ambition in the U.S. is wrong, refute his analysis and present your own.
2. If the effects of ambition are different in your culture (or ethnic group), analyze its positive and negative effects in your country (or ethnic group).
3. Choose another human trait that is important in your culture, one that shows clear advantages and disadvantages, and present an analysis similar to Samuelson's. (For Americans, "your culture" is dominant American culture or a variation in your specific ethnic group.)

For all essay choices, include clear reference to Samuelson's essay, showing that you understood his thesis and main points.

Your reference to Samuelson may take different forms depending on which of the essay options you choose:

1. You can present it in an introductory summary and provide a transition showing the connection between the two analyses.
2. You can provide a comparison between the effects of ambition and the trait you are analyzing using some of Samuelson's key points.
3. You can use another approach as long as it demonstrates clear understanding of the Samuelson essay.

YOU MUST

1. Have a clear, identifiable thesis and an introduction of both the subject and the essay.
2. Present your own reasoning and point of view while demonstrating clear understanding of the assigned reading.
3. Explain your ideas clearly in well-organized, well-developed paragraphs.
4. Include specific examples to illustrate your statements.
5. **SHOW GOOD CONTROL OF GRAMMAR AND MECHANICS AS WELL AS GOOD CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION TO PASS. ALLOW AMPLE TIME TO PROOFREAD YOUR ESSAY. USE YOUR HANDBOOK AND DICTIONARY AS NECESSARY.**

PROCEDURES: Standard homework rules.