

For this model paper, I used the "character trait" topic. You may choose this topic or one of the other two.

Unit 1 IP:

Using the four steps in the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, and editing), write a 2-3 page essay on one of the topics below:

- A character trait that you find detestable in people
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For planning material, you may use:

- Brainstorming
- Lists
- Outlines
- Freewriting

or any of the techniques discussed in Chapter 3 of your Reinking text.

PLANNING MATERIAL--BRAINSTORMING

CHARACTER TRAITS

LYING

SELFISHNESS

PATRONIZING

INSULTING

RUDENESS

INSECURE

OPINIONATED

"SELFISHNESS"

- MAKES OTHERS FEEL UNIMPORTANT
- DEPRIVES ONESELF OF KNOWING THE GOOD FEELING YOU GET WHEN YOU HELP SOMEONE
- CREATES BAD FEELINGS
- LOW SELF ESTEEM

INSULTING

- BELITTLING
- WORTHLESSNESS
- NOT INTELLIGENT

RUDENESS

- UNEDUCATED
- BELITTLING
- BRINGS ATTENTION TO ONESELF

EFFECTS ON RELATIONSHIPS

HURTFULL TO OTHERS

HOW YOUR PERCEIVED TO OTHER

As the last step in your prewriting and planning, you **MUST** complete a topic sentence outline exactly like this one.

For a quick lesson on the topic sentence outline, click here: [Essay Schematic](#).

TOPIC SENTENCE OUTLINE (with **signpost** and **echo** words)

- Topic: A character trait that you find detestable in people

Thesis: There are dozens of negative **character traits** but the one I find detestable is selfishness.

Topic Sentence 1: The **first** reason **selfishness** is so **detestable** is that it makes others feel unimportant.

Topic Sentence 2: The **second** reason **selfishness** is so **detestable** is that it deprives a person from knowing the joy of helping others.

Topic Sentence 3: The **third** reason **selfishness** is so **detestable** is that it is self-destructive.

ROUGH DRAFT

Write your rough draft quickly and without thought about correctness or finding just the right word.

In a rough draft, focus on discovering what you really think about the topic and how to elaborate and prove your ideas.

Introduction:

Sometimes I think about how life and relationships would be if certain character traits didn't exist. I have spent my fair share of time around many "types" of people with many different character traits. Some have been good, others bad. From extremely loyal to extremely rude. There are dozens of negative character traits but the one I find detestable is selfishness.

BODY:

The first reason I think selfishness is so detestable is that it makes others feel unimportant. Thinking back to when I was a child, I remember many times when selfishness was a part of everyday life. Many times when I needed advice on the experiences I was living my mother always turned the situation into being about her. Regardless of what I wanted or needed from her it seemed that she was always wondering how the situation was going to effect her or what she would get out of it. I felt that my feelings weren't important enough to her to offer her advice. Speaking from experience, low self esteem comes from the constant feeling of unimportance.

The second reason selfishness is detestable is that it deprives a person from knowing the joy of helping others. It is a total injustice to yourself to never feel what it is like to help someone in need. People are selfish over a lot of things such as money, possessions, food and feelings to name a few. There is nothing that compares to knowing that you have helped someone by giving them the extra money they need for a prescription they otherwise would have to go without. How about that car that was left to you in your grandmothers will that you know you will never drive. The feeling you get from the look on your aunt's face when you hand her the keys is beyond compare. The best feeling yet is knowing that the food you have donated to the local food pantry is going to go to a needy family with hungry children. Helping others is very humbling and everyone should experience what it means to be unselfish.

The third reason selfishness is detestable is that it is self-destructive. Selfishness creates a plethora of bad feelings and loneliness. A selfish person is often without true friends. The resulting loneliness can lead the feeling of inadequacy and low self esteem. Now the selfish person enters into a downward spiral. Low self esteem can lead to depression, a form of mental illness. But without friends and a true connection to others, the selfish person will have a difficult time finding a way out.

CONCLUSION:

Depression would not be at an all time high if people would only stop and realize that selfishness can and does lead to other psychological and physical health problems.

Your final copy should start on a new page and be double spaced throughout. Be sure to include your name and assignment.

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English 105 – Unit 1 IP

Dr. David Taylor

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Final Draft

SELFISHNESS

Sometimes I think about how life and relationships would be if certain character traits didn't exist. I have spent my fair share of time around many "types" of people with many different character traits. Some have been good, others bad, from extremely loyal to extremely rude. **There are dozens of negative character traits, but the one I find most detestable is selfishness.**

The **first** reason I think selfishness is so detestable is that it makes others feel unimportant. Thinking back to when I was a child, I remember many times when selfishness was a part of everyday life. Many times when I needed advice on the experiences I was living through, my mother always turned the situation into being about her. Regardless of what I wanted or needed from her, it seemed that she was always wondering how the situation was going to affect her or what she would get out of it. I felt that my emotions and concerns weren't important enough. The result was predictable. Speaking from experience, a low self image comes from this constant feeling of being unimportant. As an adult, I now know the problem wasn't me—it was selfishness.

The thesis is usually the last sentence of your intro paragraph. For a lesson on the introduction, click here: [How to Write Your Introduction](#)

Begin each body paragraph with a topic sentence containing **signpost** and **echo** words.

Each body paragraph should use specific examples and details to illustrate its point clearly.

Each body paragraph should use specific examples and details to illustrate its point clearly: money for prescriptions, used cars, food to a homeless shelter.

For a lesson on how to develop your body paragraphs, click here: [Rules of Evidence.](#)

The **second** reason **selfishness** is **detestable** is that it deprives a person of knowing the joy of helping others. It is a total injustice to never feel what it is like to help someone in need. People are selfish over a lot of different things such as money and possessions, to name a few. But the satisfaction in owning things is nothing that in comparison to knowing you have helped someone by giving to them. Maybe it's the extra money they need for a prescription they otherwise would have gone without. What about the car that was left to you in your grandmother's will but you know you will never drive? The feeling you get from the look on your aunt's face when you hand her the keys is beyond compare. The best feeling yet is knowing that the food you donated to the local homeless shelter for single mothers is going to a needy family with hungry children. Helping others is very humbling, and everyone should experience what it means to be unselfish.

The **third** reason **selfishness** is so **detestable** is that it is self-destructive. Selfishness creates a plethora of bad feelings, including loneliness. A selfish person is often without true friends. The resulting loneliness can lead to the feeling of inadequacy and low self-esteem. Now the selfish person enters into a downward spiral as he or she withdraws further inward for protection. Low self-esteem can lead to depression, a form of mental illness. But without friends and a true connection to others, the selfish person will have a difficult time finding a way out. In this case, a "detestable" character trait can become a tragic one.

The tragedy of selfishness is not just the pain it causes to others. The ultimate victim is usually the selfish person himself or herself. Again, I know this

Conclusions are easier to write if you have a plan. There are over

seven
different
conclusion
strategies
discussed in
this handout:
[How to Write
a Conclusion
that Works.](#)

from personal experience. I watched my own mother's self-centeredness trap her inside her own needs and keep her from forming lasting connections with her own family, including her children and husband. She ultimately died alone. She had everything she needed except the most important thing—the genuine, unconditional love of others. Selfish people rarely get to find out what that is.