

Reaction Paper #1 – Leadership and Politics TLC

Graded Item	Pts Earned	Pts Possible
<p>Overall – addresses question and each aspect of the question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - addresses question throughout the paper - addresses each aspect of the question - is able to remain on focus with presentation of arguments - is direct, clear, and substantiates arguments with examples and evidence <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Good job.</i></p>	8	8
<p>Exploration of question: How does this issue relate to you personally? How does it relate in a local context? How does it relate to our state/the citizens of our state?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - addresses each area/aspect - demonstrates can observe multiple aspects of the situation (personal, local, state) - demonstrates the same issue—or aspect of the issue—can be viewed from multiple perspectives - can place those multiple aspects in context - recognizes the factors that effect their perspective - recognizes conflicting goals involved with the issue at each level and that the differences can be evaluated <p style="text-align: center;"><i>overall good discussion of multiple aspects, conflict</i></p>	12	12
<p>Writing Style:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - uses correct grammar, punctuation, spelling - organization: provides an introductory paragraph that introduces the main arguments and previews the paper, information is well organized in a logical manner, good transitions are used between paragraphs, a concluding paragraph sums up the arguments succinctly and concludes the paper (conclusion does not introduce new material or a new argument) <p style="text-align: center;"><i>None edits to watch for - Good structure, writing style</i></p>	4.5	5
<p>Deductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - did not meet page requirement - formatting incomplete/incorrect (e.g., margins, spacing, font) - late 		(-)
Total	74.5	25

Overall Good discussion - will present prototype. Good work.

Student F - fall 2005 TLC

Leadership and Politics TLC

Reaction Paper 1

Should the State be Concerned with Higher Education?

Albert Einstein once said, "Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school." It goes without question that education is an integral part of our society. The education that we receive in school, especially college for those of us lucky enough to attend, carries with us throughout the rest of our lives. However, to some, the quality of education has been decreasing as of late due to many reasons, be it the changing times, changing people or one of the most controversial issues ^{such as} funding. To some, the issue of funding is very important and many feel that it has become more and more inadequate as of late. The University of Kansas has been experiencing many concerns facing the funding of the university as a whole. To examine the issue, one must look at it from the personal, local and state levels and at the same time, examine the relevance of the question itself.

Good preview start.

Personally, and this is not meant to sound pretentious, but on an individual level, I'm not very concerned with the state's funding of the University of Kansas. It would be a lie to say that I paid for any of my college education, applied for student loans or even knew how much college costs. I've lived a sheltered life for the past eighteen years and was always raised under the concept that "everyone goes to college" and knew that I would be there at sometime in my life with no problem. Despite my attitude towards the tuition of the University of Kansas, I believe that education is absolutely essential which is why, even if not on a personal level, I feel that this is an important issue facing our University.

When I look at the impact of decreased funding for the University as a whole, I find that yet again, I'm not terribly concerned with the issue. Granted, without necessary endowment for our education, we lose the impact of it on our lives. Without proper funding for our University we begin to lose professors, teaching assistants, resources, and other essential materials. However, there are other issues that need to be explored before we begin pointing fingers. I'm certainly not saying that we do not need money for the University, because without necessary financial support the University does not function; so the question becomes, how big of a problem is this and even more importantly, whose problem is it? Some would argue that the problem lies within the state government, whereas the majority of evidence points to the problem actually lying within the University itself. The truth is that the Kansas state legislature has actually passed legislation increasing the amount of money provided for the University of Kansas by about 64,600,000 dollars as according to the Governor's Budget Report for Fiscal Year, 2006. Not only that, but compared to the other Universities in Kansas, KU far surpasses the rest in the amount of money they receive. One of the biggest issues that the University of Kansas faces in funding actually deals with the internal workings of the University. After attending several Senate committee meetings myself, I've noticed a trend in that there are very, very few things that are not approved of by the committee members. No matter how inane the proposal, money is always appropriated. Recently we've spent massive amounts of money to remodel the front of Allen Fieldhouse, mold green goop over the Jayhawk in front of Strong Hall and officially change the logo of KU. In my opinion, the issue is not, whether or not the money is coming from the state, but where can we be putting it so that it can better serve the students and faculty of the University of Kansas.

public funds
or
Athletic
Corp.
funds?

To answer the question posed, the state funding of the University of Kansas does not necessarily affect the KU community, Lawrence community or student body so much as the Administration of KU does. Of course if funding continues to be mismanaged, we will see continuing problems within our university. In my opinion, I no longer see the problem of what happens to our University, but rather what do we do about it? There's no point in discussing the repercussions of something that we know is bad, obviously no money, or rather money in the wrong places is not good for our education. It's common sense to say that less money will create a worse working environment for both faculty and students alike. We can also assume that the quality of the campus in general would decrease rapidly. But what to do? As shown again in the Governor's Budget Report for the Fiscal year 2006, we're actually increasing the budget for our University, so clearly enough work, or at least for now, has been done there. Now it's time to work on the administration. It's time to make a stand and demand that instead of allowing Student Senate to fund the Chinese Checkers Club with 200 dollars, that the money should go to desks that are not following apart beneath you. But that's not what this paper is about, is it? No, the point of this paper is to point out what we all know is true, without money, the world doesn't go round.

Finally, it's time to examine how our State views college education. Yet again, as we all should be painfully aware of by now, higher education has become more and more vital to the success of our state and nation as a whole. If we honestly believe that our state does not value higher education then why are we even here? Our state has given us more money than most other organizations to help students like myself receive a quality education. I would never be comfortable living in a state that was not somewhat devoted to higher education. However, I do not believe in any way that the state of Kansas is not committed to education, especially at the

College level. I firmly believe that there is an integral relationship between the government of the state and the Universities within the State. The state gives us money and necessities and the universities provide the state with jobs, intelligent people and refreshing atmospheres. In no way does the State benefit by decreasing funding for the University of Kansas.

Albert Einstein was completely right when he said that education will stick with us for the rest of our lives. It is an atrocity to say that education is not a valuable concept. The ability to learn and achieve in not only secondary education, but especially higher education is essential to maintain our country and state. The only question we need to ask ourselves is whether or not our Universities are functioning like they are supposed to be. We need to make sure that those items that require absolute funding and attention receive just that. It's hard to convince the state legislature to appropriate even more enhancements to the already increased budget. However, it is easy to convince the Administration that money is being spent incorrectly. Education is key to our society and if funding is not there then educators cannot instruct those in need of knowledge. It affects us all, from the personal to the state level. Something needs to be done without a doubt. It's time to ensure that our education has a future, but the question now becomes, where do we start; and that is an entirely different paper.

Works Cited

The Governor's Budget Report, Volume 2, Fiscal Year 2006
(http://da.state.ks.us/budget/publications/FY2006/FY2006_GBR--Volume_2--updated_1-31-2005.pdf)