

Essay #4: Are We Responsible for Our Addictions?

In Essay 4, we are taking the leap into using the concepts from one text to analyze the ideas in another text. We will continue to work on carefully reading and understanding the texts, but this time, we'll be choosing strong specific examples to illustrate the connections we make from text to text and explaining these analytical connections to our readers.

Directions

In an essay of at least **four pages and six paragraphs**, answer this question: How accountable should Angie Bachmann be held for her gambling debts based on what you learned about addictions from “Rat Park: The Radical Addiction Experiment” by Lauren Slater and habits from Charles Duhigg’s *The Power of Habit*?

Text Selections

- *The Power of Habit* Chapter 9
- “Rat Park: The Radical Addiction Experiment” by Lauren Slater (from her book *Opening Skinner’s Box: Great Psychological Experiments of the Twentieth Century*)

Important Things to Remember

- Focus your essay with a strong **thesis statement** that makes a **claim** about the degree to which Angie Bachmann should be held accountable for her debt and states the **reasons** for that claim (your “because” statement).
- Provide effective and developed **support for your claim** with ideas from both texts.
- Effectively **summarize** Angie Bachmann’s story and ideas from Duhigg’s book and Slater’s chapter that support your claim.
- **Critically analyze** the degree to which you believe Bachmann is responsible for her debt, using Duhigg’s theories about habits and the theories of addiction discussed in Slater’s chapter, and explain this analysis to readers.
- Create **organized paragraphs** that focus on one main point and divide your argument into manageable chunks for your readers

How to Organize Your Essay

Paragraph #1—Introduction (Hook, bridge, thesis)

Paragraph #2—Body Paragraph #1: Reason #1 (MEAEAL)

Paragraph #3—Body Paragraph #2: Reason #2 (MEAEAL)

Paragraph #4—Body Paragraph #3: Reason #3 or Counter-argument and Rebuttal (MEAEAL)

Paragraph #5—Body Paragraph #4: Reason #4 (MEAEAL)

Paragraph #6—Conclusion

Tips for Success

- Write your essay in “chunks” instead of all in one sitting.
- Attend TC or Writing Center sessions in the weeks before the essay is due.
- Come to office hours to get feedback on your work from me.
- Edit the final draft carefully.
- Cite sources correctly, both in-text and on a works cited page, using MLA format.
- Make sure to adhere to all due dates and requirements.