

## Ashland English 101 Essay #5

### Critique

Begin by reading “English” by Ken Macrorie, along with the short comments before and after on the same webpage (available through Blackboard).

### Your Writing Task

Macrorie (along with Irene Clark and Michael Colson, the authors of those brief comments before and after) argues that English, “the official language of the school,” has been systematically taught by both teachers and textbooks, and that in this lifeless writing style, “the student cannot express truths that count for him.”

**In this final essay for English 101, write a critique of this discussion by Macrorie, Clark, and Colson.** Were you taught this institutional style by teachers and textbooks? If so, was that a bad thing? And (perhaps the most important question here) is “English” really that far from the students’ real voice? Perhaps their real voice is “pretentious, phony, and private,” attempting to shut others out and provide as few details as possible.

### Mechanical Details

**Length:** Minimum 1300 words not counting title, your name, etc. That’s about a four-page paper. There is no maximum, but try to keep it under 1950. Papers significantly under the minimum (90% or less) will not receive the best possible grade.

**Format:** Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1” margin all around, MLA header.)

### *Submitting the paper:*

- This paper will be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Instructions are available on the Blackboard website for this course.

### Due Dates

**NOTE: Late papers will not be accepted for this assignment!**

- **Peer Editing:** Friday, December 6, 2019
- **Final copy:** Monday, December 9, 2019

This essay is worth 100 points.

**Peer editing counts as a quiz.** You get credit if you show up in person with two printed copies of your rough draft (at least 90% of the assigned length). Do not expect us to hand your laptop around the room and make comments on your word processing file.

- No credit for sending your copy by email. No credit for bringing it in later.