# \*\*\*I give students a sample essay showing the basic features of an analysis that includes a personal response, with lots of guidance on what goes on in each section. The sample text is below the sample essay\*\*\*

# Essay #1 Outline

This file is a basic shell of what the structure of each paragraph should be. More examples of the paragraphs will be added to our course Canvas page.

Intro

**Give title of text you’re analyzing / state the type of text it is / name the author and source –** “Newsom Makes Good Investment in Community Colleges, Workplace Development” is a news article by Byron D. Clift Breland that appeared on the website of San Jose Spotlight in February, 2021.

**State the purpose of the text (Often, it is to evaluate a topic AND SOMETIMES to argue a stance) –** The purpose of this text is to portray the state of California’s economy, and details from the upcoming 2021-2022 budget, and for the author to argue in favor of this budget.

**State one key point from the text, and say why it is important –** One important part of this text is how much of the budget will go to education, in particular community colleges. This is important because it allows us to see how supportive the state plans to be at a time when the pandemic has hit education hard.

**Personal response (my level of experience with the topic AND / OR my personal opinion on it) –** Personally, I am in favor of what clearly is quite a lot of support for education at all levels, especially community colleges. Not only is this level of education a crucial part of our economy and society, but details from the article show a lot of help is needed.

Analysis

**Introduce the key point you will mention, say why it is important** – As the title suggests, a very important topic in this text is the relationship between the budget and education, with a particular focus on the two-year level.

**Describe the text (often it helps to locate the passage you are citing, and/or summarize what is happening in the text) –** Early in the text, Breland writes about how important community college education is to the state’s workforce.

**Give a quote, as a correct MLA citation –** He writes, “California’s community colleges serve more than 2 million students per year. Community colleges have educated about 80% of the state’s firefighters, law enforcement personnel and emergency medical technicians, as well as 70% of the state’s nurses” (Breland).

**Explain the quote (what exactly it means, and how it helps the text)** – These figures show how many people are impacted by two-year education in California, and how much workforce training goes on there.

**Describe the text some more, and discuss what is happening in the passages you are citing from** – A bit later on we learn about the financial support the state will provide.

**Give the quote in correct MLA format –** According to the text, the budget will include “$250 million in one-time funding for emergency financial assistance, $100 million in one-time funding to support students facing food and housing insecurity and $30 million for mental health services, internet access and computer equipment” (Breland).

**Explain the quote (what it is saying, and how it helps support the purpose of the text)** – Some of this funding is temporary and related to the pandemic, but the support goes beyond that. A large percentage is going to students who are in need economically. This helps us see in detail how California not only values higher education, but puts a special emphasis on helping the poor.

Personal Response

**What my level of experience is with the topic AND / OR my opinion on the topic (1-2 sentences) –** Personally, I agree with this level of support, and how the money is being spent. Two million people is a lot of people, and as most of us know, the pandemic has hit poor Californians particularly hard, so I agree that the assistance is money well spent.

**What are some examples that support the first part of this paragraph (2-3 sentences) –** Also, being at a rural campus, I know about technology challenges, and the overall need to have digital literacy to be competitive in the workforce. So putting millions into improving that is going to have positive benefits for a lot of different reasons.

**How these examples are part of my experience AND / OR my opinion on the topic (1-2 sentences) –** I feel my firsthand experience with this level of education, and with how the pandemic has affected our state, gives me insight into why these are such good ideas.

Conclusion

**Why the topic matters (examples: it is current, it is widespread)** – This is an important topic because of the amount of people who attend these schools, and the reality that these people are much more likely to have financial issues than other types of students. Also, we are not completely recovered from this pandemic, so the assistance is still badly needed.

**Other key points from the text that are worth mentioning / why they are important** – Another important topic from the text is that an additional $620 million is included for various other programs, something that community college leaders throughout the state are applauding. This helps us see in even more detail how the state is coming in to help in a time of crisis.

**Shortcomings (examples: the text is old, the text is too short, the text has limited perspectives) –** One issue with this text is that it was written before the budget was passed. Did anything change? Was all the funding approved?

**Future studies we could do to learn more about this topic (they should add to our understanding of the central topics)** – We can look to new texts to find this out. Also, there could be people who have different opinions on the budget – their perspectives might help us see various ideas on how the money might be spent.

# “Newsom Makes Good Investment in Community Colleges, Workplace Development”

# Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland (San Jose Spotlight website, February 3rd, 2021)

Link: <https://sanjosespotlight.com/breland-newsom-makes-good-investment-in-community-colleges-workplace-development/>

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently unveiled a $227.2 billion budget proposal, launching a six-month process that will culminate in the Legislature passing the state’s 2021-2022 fiscal year budget by June 15.

The proposal is a record for California and comes as the state’s economy shows more resilience and a stronger recovery than many analysts anticipated when the economic impacts of the pandemic first began to take hold in early 2020.

The largest system of higher education in the United States, California’s community colleges serve more than 2 million students per year. Community colleges have educated about 80% of the state’s firefighters, law enforcement personnel and emergency medical technicians, as well as 70% of the state’s nurses.

Because of the large number of Californians who attend community colleges and the role they play in workforce development and job training, it is imperative they be adequately funded to lead the state’s economic recovery.

Included in the funding for community colleges is a proposed $250 million in one-time funding for emergency financial assistance, $100 million in one-time funding to support students facing food and housing insecurity and $30 million for mental health services, internet access and computer equipment for students designed to combat the digital divide that exists among students.

While there are still many challenges that institutions of higher education — and their students — will face in 2021-2022, it is a relief to know that a major reduction in state funding will not be one of them, as the proposal includes $36 billion in higher education spending.

This investment was made with the ongoing pandemic in mind and designed to control the cost of tuition and fees, provide students with emergency financial aid, increase transfer opportunities and enhance college-to-career pathways.

Included in the proposed higher education allotment is about $600 million in new ongoing and one-time funding for programs and initiatives at California’s 117 community colleges. The proposal has been lauded by leaders throughout the community college system, including state Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley, who praised it as one that “puts students first.”

Additionally, the proposal contains $20 million to support faculty professional development, which has been one of the most costly aspects of the pandemic-caused shift to online learning for colleges and universities.

Faculty members who had not previously taught online courses were rapidly trained to meet the rigorous demands required of accrediting bodies and ensure student learning outcomes did not falter during the transition.

Another important priority. Newsom’s budget proposal highlights is the ongoing effort to reduce the cost of textbooks and expand Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) courses and degree programs. Many community college students end up spending more per semester on textbooks — which often cost hundreds of dollars each — than they do on tuition and fees.

By using open educational resources and other materials students can access for free, the total cost to obtain an associate degree or to transfer can be greatly reduced. The governor’s proposal includes $15 million in one-time funds to expand ZTC pathways.

Community college career education programs are uniquely situated to support displaced workers and train the post-pandemic workforce. The time is now to boldly reimagine a workforce system that promotes equitable employment outcomes for everyone, including those new to the workforce as well as displaced workers.

There remains a critical need to build strong connections to apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities that should be imbedded throughout the K-12 educational pipeline.

Because of the pivotal role community colleges must play in our regional and statewide economic recovery, the state’s investment in community college education and workforce development is vital as California continues to bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.