

# English 101

*Interpretive Essay B*

by *[student sample]*

# Introduction & Claim

*Replace the text below with your own words*

- Roy Scranton’s editorial “Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene ” reveals the author’s belief that by being selfless, we can all become heroes when we put others first and this will eventually lead us to saving what we have left in this planet.

# “Big Picture” Context

*Replace the text below with your own words*

- “Anthropocene” appeared in **New York Times** on **November 10, 2013**, a time when the people in the United States were still recovering from Hurricane Sandy, which occurred nearly a year before.
- As an **soldier** at the **United States army**, **Scranton**’s background is affected by what he experienced during the war. The author relies on that experience when designing this message for his audience, a group that he sees as **mid to upper class in society and people who are open minded**.

# Evidence #1

*Replace the text below with your own words*

- Scranton discusses many reputable people's work as a way to show us that his idea/views are credible.
- As mentioned in the section where he quotes Admiral Samuel J. Loclear III, who says "global climate change was the greatest threat United States faced-more dangerous than terrorism"(124).
- One likely interpretation of this statement is that Scranton believes this shows the issue that the humans are facing and also to show that he has sources to back up his claim.

# Evidence #2

*Replace the text below with your own words*

- The author clarifies **civilizations problems** by providing more information about **his time in the army**.
- In section **about his time in the war**, we are told: “**Instead of fearing my end, I owned it. Every morning, after doing maintenance on my Humvee, I’d imagine getting blown up by an I.E.D., shot by a sniper, burned to death, run over by a tank, torn apart by dogs, captured and beheaded, and succumbing to dysentery**” (126).
- This reinforces the idea that **Scranton believes being able to accept the fact that he might die helped liberate Scranton**. Knowing that life isn’t permanent is a way to connect Scranton’s experience in the war to civilization in general. Scranton’s experience in the war helped him see the world for what it is today.

# Evidence #3

*Replace the text below with your own words*

- The author clarifies **being selfless** by providing more information about **the action to take**.
- In the essay's conclusion, **Scranton** explains that “**We can continue acting as if tomorrow will be just like yesterday, growing less and less prepared for each new disaster as it comes, and more and more desperately invested in a life we can't sustain. Or we can learn to see each day as the death of what came before, freeing ourselves to deal with whatever problems the present offers with out attachment or fear**” (127).
- This shows another angle to the author's argument that **being able to accept that there is no permanence and that one day we'll all die will liberate you**. This will result in you having no fear and you'll end up with realistic ideas on what you can do to have a little impact in this dying world.

# Finding

*Replace the text below with your own words*

- Scranton feels strongly that the consequences of being selfish and putting yourself over other are important to his intended audience of mid to upper class in society and people who are open minded, so the author uses quotes from credible people and his experience from the war to argue his point.
- The evidence presented in this essay is used to support Scranton's assumption that by being selfless, we can all become heroes when we put others first and this will eventually lead us to saving what we have left in this planet. The author is showing his audience that the best way to address this situation is by accepting that our future is doomed, and only then we can start to understand the idea of being selfless and caring for the well being of others. If everybody in society cares for each other then we would work hard on keeping the planet habitable. By trying to keep each other safe in this world we'd all become heroes.

# Conclusion

*Replace the text below with your own words*

- If **Scranton** is successful in convincing his audience to act, the results will be **the state that the world is in terms of nature, the decline of global climate issues as well as social/cultural issues**. If he is unsuccessful, however, the consequences are **the downfall of this civilization**.
- As a reviewer, I find his argument to be **not persuasive**, and disagree that **by being selfless, we can all become heroes when we put others first and this will eventually lead us to saving what we have left in this planet**. By only showing one side of the spectrum the author fails to get the opposite views/ideas across. This is the reason I think why this essay fails to get the message across.