

EngWr 101—Essay Assignment #2

Assigned reading:

Ripley, Amanda. *The Smartest Kids in the World: And How They Got That Way*. Simon & Schuster, 2013.

(See also—<http://www.amandaripley.com/books/the-smartest-kids-in-the-world>—for additional information about the book as well as mixed-media resources.)

Published in August of 2013, Amanda Ripley's *The Smartest Kids* quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller and was plugged by *The Economist*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and Amazon.com as one of the most notable books of the year. Even though there is *always* some expert talking about education in America and how bad our public schools are, Ripley's book drew a great deal of public attention.

Assignment:

In this essay, explore how Ripley's book addresses an issue (ONE) presented in "A Nation at Risk" and/or *Waiting for "Superman"*—compare and contrast how your issue is presented, and then explain which text makes the strongest argument—and why.

IF you are using just one of our previous texts to frame this essay, you will need to:

- First summarize the source, identifying the issues
- Then focus on one of these issues to connect to Ripley's text and explain *how* Ripley's book addresses the concerns of the earlier text
- Finally, explain the significance of the connection(s) you make

IF you are using both previous texts, you will need to:

- First, focus on an issue common to both "A Nation at Risk" **AND** *Waiting for "Superman"*
- Then summarize what *each* of these texts has to say about your focus issue
- Then make a connection to Ripley's text and explain *how* Ripley's book addresses the concerns of both texts
- Finally, explain the significance of the connection(s) you make

This paper *must* also include critical responses to the texts you are referencing, which will necessitate some research—a minimum of *two* outside sources in your paper.

Your paper *must* follow MLA format, including page setup, parenthetical references of your sources of information, AND a works cited page, properly formatted.