

## Article Reading One: Theoretical Essay

The goal of an essay like the one you are about to read is to make an argument based almost exclusively on existing information. The author does not carry out an original research project but rather engages the existing literature and current thinking about the issues of concern and challenges or refines them in some way. As you read this article pay particular attention to the way Rawlins uses the existing sources to build his case either by citing authors that support his view or by clarifying his views by citing authors that he disagrees with. While he does you some extended quotes from former students, the point of the essay is not to make sense of this data. Rather he uses the quotes to illustrate the validity of his theoretical claim.

First, read the entire article. On the first reading, just read it to get a bigger picture of what the scholar is trying to communicate. Second, read the article again with these questions in mind. Some of the questions focus on your ability to comprehend the article. Other questions address your understanding the methodological choices the author made.

### Article Comprehension

1. What are the key terms that the author is trying to define?
  
2. Which of the following is not one of the three facets of friendship in the Western tradition?
  - a. affection
  - b. respect
  - c. equality
  - d. mutuality
  
3. How does Rawlins describe good will?.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. You are enrolled in a class with a particularly “nice” professor. Dr. Westbrook seems available for questions in class and during office hours. But often when you drop by his office, he has a long line of students waiting. When you email questions, he doesn’t always respond right away or at all. He seems to care, but seems very busy. Which dialectical tension best expresses this situation?
  - a. dialectics of the freedom to be independent and the freedom to be dependent.
  - b. affection and instrumentality
  - c. judgment and acceptance
  - d. expressiveness and protectiveness

5. Sarah doesn't even bother to raise her hand in Dr. Caleb's class. As the class discusses whether or not unintentional communication is considered communication at all, Sarah disagrees with Dr. Caleb and argues her case. Dr. Caleb listens and responds by saying that she has made a good point. And that her point brings out some complex issues of the discussion.

From the example, which of the virtues of teaching does this best illustrate?

- a. encouraging the practices and classroom climate of a judicious and caring political community
  - b. connecting course-related learning to the lives we are living
  - c. taking seriously the temporal registers of classroom discourse
  - d. being sensitive to the narrative qualities of learners' lives
  - e. pursuing dialogue in teaching and sharing knowledge
  - f. emphasizing the intrinsic importance of classroom interactions and conversations with students
6. Craig comes to class after reading a particular difficult assignment. The professor provides no clarification or explanation. Craig needs help, but the professor trusts that Craig will be better in the long run if he can figure it out on his own. Which dialectical tension best expresses this situation?
- a. dialectics of the freedom to be independent and the freedom to be dependent.
  - b. affection and instrumentality
  - c. judgment and acceptance
  - d. expressiveness and protectiveness

7. Rawlins states that "emphasizing good will, dialogue, respect for distance and difference among persons, and the equal validity of each student's life and learning experiences, teaching as friendship seeks to establish classes as judicious and caring political communities."

Is this feasible or a "pie in the sky" ideal? From your perspective, what elements has Rawlins failed to address?

### Methodological Issues

8. What kinds of sources did Rawlins use in order to define the key terms?
9. What limitations does Rawlins offer in his article? Why do you think he does this?
10. In looking at the reference section of Rawlins' article, many of the sources are quite old. Why is this acceptable in this case?