

Writing Diagnostic

Directions: Read and respond to the prompt. The goal of this assignment is to measure your strengths and weaknesses as a writer. You may use the space on the back of this paper to brainstorm ideas, but write your essay response on a separate sheet of paper. Read the prompt carefully and respond to the prompt completely.

Joe Zippo isn't your average-looking employee. His left arm is covered with tattoos, his lower lip is pierced, and his earlobes have holes the size of half dollars. The first question I ask myself, "Does this guy have a job?" Many young people today are sporting tattoos and piercings long before they consider entering the adult job market. A recent study states that one in three Americans between 18 and 25 has a tattoo. This growing fad will lead its followers to a life of lower wages. A job applicant with little or no experience ought to be conservative in appearance, even at a casual company, says Barbara Chapman, director of career development at Orange State University. "You never have a second chance to make a first impression. Interviews are serious events and should be taken seriously." It is unfortunate that those who bear the "artwork" of a fad-ridden generation will suffer lifelong consequences.

- Quentin Parsons

Explain the author's claim and discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with his/her views. Support your position by citing evidence from the above text at least twice and by providing reasons and examples from your own experience, observations, or reading.