



Assignment

Write Explanatory Text Using a Complete Writing Process

Topic: Destiny

Note: This task uses the same sources as another task. But even if you did that task previously, please read the sources again before you start writing (the sources are repeated below).

Your Assignment:

You have just finished reading a novel where the main character was conflicted about his destiny. This made you reflect on the concept of destiny and consider whether it is a fixed sequence of events beyond human control or if individuals have the power to influence their own outcomes through choices and actions. So, you decided to do some research.

As part of your research you found three sources. After you reviewed these sources, you answered some questions about them.

Now, in this part, you will write explanatory text using information you have read.

Directions for Beginning:

You will now review several sources. You may review the sources as often as you like.

Sources for the Task:

Source #1

You have found a brief article defining the idea of destiny:

What Is Destiny?

By Guillermo de Jesus

Destiny is the idea that certain events or outcomes in life are meant to happen. Some people believe that destiny is controlled by a higher power or a universal plan, while others think it's shaped by the choices we make and the circumstances around us.

For example, you might hear someone say, "It was destiny that we met," meaning it felt like it was meant to be. But is destiny really set in stone? Not everyone agrees. Some believe that even if there's a bigger plan, our actions and decisions can change the course of our lives.

Think of destiny like a path. It might be laid out ahead of you, but how you walk it—or whether you choose a different path entirely—depends on you. Whether you believe in destiny as something fixed or flexible, one thing is clear: your choices and efforts have a big impact on where life takes you.

Source #2

You have found an editorial from the *New York Times* discussing the inevitability of an individual's destiny:

Is Destiny Truly Inevitable?

By Diana Hazel

The idea of destiny has captivated human imagination for centuries. For some, it represents a comforting sense of order in a chaotic world, a belief that everything happens for a reason.

For others, it evokes a sense of powerlessness, as though their lives are written in stone by

forces beyond their control. But what if destiny is not as fixed as we often believe? What if, through our actions and choices, we hold the power to shape our future?

The concept of destiny often hinges on the idea of inevitability. However, human history is filled with examples of individuals who defied the odds and broke free from the so-called “paths” laid out before them. Think of Malala Yousafzai, who overcame cultural and societal barriers to become a global advocate for education, or Steve Jobs, who transformed personal failure into the seeds of revolutionary innovation. Their stories suggest that destiny, if it exists, is malleable.

At the core of this debate lies the power of choice. While we cannot control every circumstance—natural disasters, socioeconomic conditions, or accidents, for instance—we can control our reactions to these events. Our decisions in the face of adversity can create new opportunities, rerouting us from paths we once thought were set. Science, too, supports this view: the field of neuroscience shows that the human brain is capable of remarkable adaptation, suggesting that we are not slaves to predetermined patterns or behaviors.

This isn’t to dismiss the influence of factors like luck, privilege, or systemic barriers, which undeniably shape opportunities. But it is to argue that “destiny” is not an all-encompassing force. It is a blend of chance and choice, where our will and determination can tip the scales.

Perhaps destiny is better understood not as a predetermined end but as a dynamic process—one that we co-create through our courage to act and our ability to envision something greater than the circumstances in which we find ourselves. Rather than resigning ourselves to “what will be,” let us focus on what could be and take the steps necessary to make it happen.

Destiny, then, may not be an unavoidable force. Instead, it is a challenge—a call to rise above circumstances, harness our potential, and take control of the stories we wish to write.

Source #3

You have found an article from an online journal for mental health:

Is Destiny Predetermined?

By Joseph Wong

The question of whether destiny is predetermined has intrigued philosophers, theologians, and thinkers for centuries. At its core, this debate examines the extent to which our lives are shaped by forces beyond our control versus the influence of our own choices and actions.

Understanding Predeterminism

Predeterminism posits that all events, including human actions, are established or known in advance. This perspective suggests that every occurrence in the universe follows a preordained plan, leaving little room for individual autonomy.

The Role of Free Will

Contrasting with predeterminism is the concept of free will—the belief that individuals have the capacity to make choices independent of any preordained script. Proponents argue that while certain aspects of life may be influenced by external factors, humans possess the agency to shape their own destinies through decisions and actions.

Philosophical Perspectives

Philosophers have long grappled with reconciling predeterminism and free will. Some adopt a compatibilist stance, asserting that free will can coexist with a deterministic universe. Others, known as incompatibilists, believe that if our actions are predetermined, true free will cannot exist.

Cultural and Religious Views

Various cultures and religions offer differing interpretations of destiny. For instance, certain theological doctrines emphasize predestination, where a divine being has foreordained all

events. Conversely, other belief systems advocate for human agency, emphasizing moral responsibility and the power of choice.

Conclusion

The debate over whether destiny is predetermined remains unresolved, reflecting deep-seated questions about human nature, autonomy, and the structure of the universe. While some find comfort in the idea of a predetermined path, others champion the belief in personal agency and the ability to shape one's own future. Ultimately, this discourse invites each individual to reflect on their own beliefs and the extent to which they feel empowered to influence their life's trajectory.

The Assignment:

Using your research, write a report answering the question: Is destiny predetermined or avoidable?

Using more than one source, develop a thesis/controlling idea to explain the idea of destiny. You may want to focus on why destiny is either predetermined or avoidable. Once you have a thesis/controlling idea, select the most relevant information from more than one source to support your thesis/controlling idea. Then, write a multi-paragraph explanatory article explaining your thesis/controlling idea. Clearly organize your article and elaborate on your ideas. Develop your ideas clearly and use your own words, except when quoting directly from the sources. Be sure to reference the source title or number when quoting or paraphrasing details or facts from the sources.

Your explanatory article will be scored using the following:

1. **Organization/purpose:** How well did you state your thesis/controlling idea and maintain your thesis/controlling idea with a logical progression of ideas from beginning to end? How well did you narrow your thesis/controlling idea so you can develop and elaborate the conclusion? How well did you consistently use a variety of transitions? How effective were your introduction and your conclusion?
2. **Evidence/elaboration:** How well did you integrate relevant and specific information from the sources? How well did you elaborate on your ideas? How well did you clearly state ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose?
3. **Conventions:** How well did you follow the rules of grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling?

Your Response:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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