Higher Education

For this unit we have been discussing higher education: how it ideally serves students and the community, as well as how it actually functions. Of course, higher education is a broad grouping of community and technical colleges and universities, including undergraduate and graduate education. The authors in Composing a Civic Life that we have read on this subject have posed questions about the nature of higher learning, how best to promote real learning and thinking as opposed to rote memorization, and training versus education. Garrison argues that “college exists to help you learn how to think for yourself and how to use the tools of thinking in a grown-up, morally responsible, and socially effective way” (291).

(Your task:)
Looking at the resources that PCC offers students to support their academic efforts and the kinds of teaching that happens in your classes, do you think PCC provides the kind of educational environment that helps you to learn to think for yourself and to use the tools of thinking in the way that Garrison suggests a college should? Be sure to clearly and thoughtfully explain why and/or why not. You must use information about PCC and from the readings to support your points (yes, that means quotes!). Paper should follow MLA format.

Remember that you must visit a tutor in the writing center at some point while working on this essay, but before the day it is due.

Length: 4-5 pages (no fewer than four pages)
Rough Draft due: Friday, March 23 (bring three copies to class)
Final Draft due: Wednesday March 28