Paige Carr

Problem Set 2- Essay

Holy Cross, a Jesuit College known for its opportunities for discovery and education, may appear like any New England, private college. but no institute is the same. The unique atmosphere of this campus is symbolized through its beautiful architecture. Its carefully crafted buildings and layout project the ideas of tradition, dedication, and resourcefulness.

Tradition is a valued characteristic of Holy Cross. “Live the Mission” is a statement I have seen on many shirts since the day I moved here. Not only is tradition apparent through its community members, but as well through its architecture. Even with all the construction, due to fire and a growing community, the overall sense and look of the school has never really changed. For example, when the architect was building Alumni Hall he ground cinder into the cement giving it a pink hue to match the older style of the school. Also, many of the buildings are constructed in the shape of a capital ‘I’ which shows uniformity. Driving to school, the beautiful campus can be seen from the highway and the buildings stand uniformly on top of the hill portraying its traditional environment.

*“appear to be similar to” would be better*

*Start a new sentence here. “But no two institutions are the same.”*

*I think there’s a bit more going on there than just uniformity. This also gives a very orderly, symmetrical feeling to those buildings.*

In addition to the air of tradition presented throughout the school grounds, dedication is also symbolically expressed in the architecture. For example, it is a feat to build an enormous campus alone, but to build a spectacular campus on top of a hill is a great achievement. Our high grounds and varying levels do indeed symbolize the dedication of this school. Quite often, construction workers had to cut into the hill and remove soil to accommodate the building efforts. Another great example of dedication, as seen through the architecture, is embodied within the original halls of Fenwick. Although threatened by fire, Fenwick proudly stands today. Dedicated fire fighters relentlessly pumped water from the bottom of the hill and were able to save a good portion of the building.

Lastly, resourcefulness is symbolized in the architecture. Although not a part of Holy Cross, there was a farm on campus that produced most of the produce and milk that students consumed. Another example is the Fieldhouse. During one of the world wars, steel was either unavailable or in very short supply. The school wanted to build a gymnasium, so the Fieldhouse was constructed out of an old, metal aircraft hangar. Every day, students here learn to be resourceful and it is clearly represented in the buildings.

*Usually when you say something is symbolically expressed by another thing, that was a conscious choice. Do you think the architects who designed the campus wanted to show the quality of dedication by putting the buildings where they did? Or was it a question of necessity? (The campus was where it was, and they had to meet the challenges that posed.)*

*The farm was a part of Holy Cross at the time. Do you mean that the farm is no longer present?*

In conclusion, the details of the buildings, their stories, and the careful planning of the campus symbolize the tradition, dedication, and resourcefulness that are significant characteristics of the Holy Cross community. The distinguished architecture and beautiful grounds reflect not only a storied past, but underscore and support the educational values of the institution.

*Paige,*

*This is a good, well-structured essay. I guess I would say that the campus illustrates tradition, dedication, and resourcefulness, though, instead of saying that the campus symbolizes those things, though. I don’t think that a person coming to the campus and seeing the library, for example,*

*would say “that building stands for or represents tradition.” They might say “that building is an example of traditional*

*architecture.”*