

Here are the analytical prompts that we worked on, with my added revisions. I also included prompts from the emails I received - these were not revised in class, but feel free to use any of them. **CHOOSE ONE**—write a 250 word response (or more), and try to use a bit of textual evidence in your response. Post to BB.

<p>1</p>	<p>In “Dirty Little Secret #3, The Ambition Gap,” Friedman says that those in other countries have more passion and work ethic than most Americans. He quotes a CEO who states, “not only is outsourcing cheaper [...] but the quality and productivity boost is huge” (354). Friedman’s argument makes it sound like people from countries such as India and China produce a higher quality of work than the average American. What, specifically, does Friedman say about work ethic and the efforts of American workers (give examples)? And how does this effort/ethic compare to the foreign workers that are discussed on p 354? Given these examples, what motivates some people to work harder than others? Judging from Friedman’s evidence, what seems to motivate the foreign workers, vs. the American workers?</p> <p>OR A different version of this question (drawing on more textual context):</p> <p>In “Dirty Little Secret #3, The Ambition Gap,” Friedman says that those in other countries have more passion and work ethic than most Americans. He quotes a CEO who states, “not only is outsourcing cheaper [...] but the quality and productivity boost is huge” (354). Friedman’s argument makes it sound like people from countries such as India and China produce a higher quality of work than the average American. He goes on to suggest that recent immigrants to the US have a similar attitude toward work, and that they want their children to work much harder than American schools require (357). Furthermore, he suggests that in Western Countries (like Europe, and by extension, America), people would be unwilling to give up vacations and work on weekends to match the production of foreign workers(359). Drawing from these examples, describe the barriers that would stand in the way of improving American productivity. How receptive would Americans be to the attitudes discussed on pg 359?</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>1. Throughout the text, the subject of science and engineering came up acknowledging that America was definitely declining as a strong power in these subjects. Yet, during the introduction of the piece, Friedman introduces American’s role in worldly competition by mentioning instances in the 2004 Olympic Games. Evaluate Friedman’s use of basketball to set up his arguments of America’s declining in competition against other countries? Does this parallel serve as a valid introduction to set up America is falling behind in science and engineering? Make sure to include textual evidence for further your claim.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>On page 343 it is said that “wealth will gravitate to countries who get three basic things right.” One of these these conditions is “the right governance, which includes the right tax policies, the right investment and tax laws, the right support for research, the right intellectual property laws, and, most of all, the right inspirational leadership – to enhance and manage the flow with the flat world.” He goes on to conclude “the United States has serious gaps developing in these areas.” (343) Friedman is suggesting that in order for the US to improve and maintain our wealth, there are many intricate ways in which government must lead.</p> <p>Q- What is the author is referring to when he identifies each of these areas of governance? How do they affect the daily lives of Americans and/or our competitiveness around the world?</p> <p>Q - Given Friedman’s claims about our shortcomings as a nation, what would the ‘right’ investment, tax laws, support for research, intellectual property laws and inspirational leadership be? Explain how these solutions could (or couldn’t) actually work to help America and its’ citizens increase our competitiveness with other countries.</p>

4	<p>(What do other countries do to challenge and push their students?)</p> <p>Friedman suggests, repeatedly, that America’s education system and government do not push students to work hard enough, or to work within the sciences. Does he mention or imply what other countries do to challenge and push their students? Do you find his characterization of these other countries to be valid or reliable? Would it be appropriate to assume that the methods of other countries would work in America? Why or why not?</p>
5	<p>3. Is it fair to compare the educational gap between countries like the U.S and China who have completely different forms of government which the U.S does not agree with? Especially since Communism forces everyone in the country to work and go to school. So is it a question of sheer will and ambition like Friedman thinks or is it by force due to the government enforcing the citizens to work? So if something is done by force is all ambition lost?</p>
6	<p>When Friedman introduces Dirty Little Secret #3, the ambition Gap, he states that our love for television and video and online games helps explain why he have the ambition gap (pg 354). How much blame should we put on media for this phenomena, since F suggests that education and literacy are the problem? That is, Friedman would likely suggest that education systems are at fault. Do you agree? How responsible are they for directing our students’ attention away from media? **This would be a great question to connect to Davidson!</p>
7	<p>Begin by reflecting on whether you agree with our nation being identified nationally as ‘lacking’ educationally. [Note—need quotes from Friedman here about how he identifies “lacking” educationally.] Do any of your experiences corroborate claims that he made in the text? Do his descriptions seem logical to you, and are you persuaded by the way he is describing our motivation? Is he being too emotional—that is, is his reaction or labeling of our education being “lacking” logical or justified?</p>
8	<p>Throughout the chapter, Thomas Friedman makes numerous comparisons between the U.S. and China. What are some of the comparisons that he makes? Why does Friedman constantly compare the U.S. to such a prosperous (different?) country, especially since China’s population is much larger than that of the U.S? Based on one or more of the examples you chose, would you support or critique his comparison?</p>
9	<p>After reading on page 354 about the difference in motivation between the U.S and overseas nations Friedman concludes that since there is more productivity in overseas nations that they are more ambitious. That is, Friedman seems to equate productivity with ambition. Do you agree with Friedman’s characterization of ambition, or is he choosing the wrong word? Are other countries more productive because they are more ambitious, or are they productive for other reasons? Given the reality of poor working conditions in some developing nations, is the issue really about ambition or a lack of other alternatives and options?</p>
10	<p>Examine & compare Friedman’s unflattering descriptions of Americans to his descriptions of China (give examples). Does his tone differ in these descriptions? What does this say about Friedman’s perspective of Americans?</p>
11	<p>Friedman also states that the current education system is molded for an old work system. Poorly funded schools could still produce workers that could work basic jobs and still get by, while high funded private or public schools taught students to be more creative and focus more on specific fields, allowing them to get higher payed jobs. Since many of these low paying jobs are either becoming automated or sent overseas, has this left an empty hole for those in these poorly funded schools? Why isn’t this system working anymore and how could our education system change to allow everyone the opportunity to work high end jobs?</p>

12	In the Quiet Crisis, Friedman introduces 6 reasons why America as a country is in decline when it comes to science and engineering. Which of the six should require the most attention in order for America to have a resurgence? Use examples from the text that support your answer.
13	Through out the piece Friedman places an emphasis on engineering and science. Being a freshman in college this is very relevant to us. Friedman quotes a science PhD student (and his daughters boyfriend) as saying that American kids want to get degrees in things that are "fun", and science and math aren't "fun". I think the implication here is that students not majoring in science or engineering are taking the easy way out. Does the language Friedman uses make you want to get a degree in science or engineering? How do you feel about his language?