Writing and Presenting Solid Arguments through Rants

A good rant, though provocative, is more than just a shout out of one’s thoughts and emotions, it is a carefully planned, well developed dialogue presented with passion and conviction.  For this assignment you will carefully craft your rant in 200-300 words.  This is something you will later present to the rest of us so write it as if it were a speech. In order to say something that we will want to read, and your classmates will want to listen to, you must prepare thoroughly.

I) Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1Y7qpiu2RQ&feature=relmfu> and watch Rick Mercer’s Rant on Bullying ( I bet you can’t watch just one) and make note of how he develops his ideas

* is there a thesis? (Oooh…there’s that scary word thesis!-No Fear! It just means an argument or a point)
* does he have direction?
* how does he get to his point?
* are his examples sound?
* is his language convincing and passionate?

II) Now watch the following talk by Sir Ken Robinson on schools and the education system <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDZFcDGpL4U> and make note of how this is similar and how it differs from Rick Mercer’s rants

* What kind of tone does Robinson use?
* What about pacing, humour, and examples?

Let’s watch a few more and decide which hold credibility and which is just a bunch of hot air!