Essays – Spring 2019

Listed below are the essays you will be assigned this semester for major grades. All essay grades are averaged along with your in-class, quiz/test, and homework grades for your final grade.

Format

• All essays must be typed, double spaced and have one inch margins. You should use a 12 point font. Times Roman or Arial are cool.

• You should have a cover sheet to your essays with your name, the day it is due, the title and the section number of this class. None of this information should appear on your first page. Your first page should start at the one inch margin.

• All essays must have a title and not something lame like “Comparison/Contrast Essay”

• All essays must be at least as long as the assignment specifies. Failure to do so may result in significant point loss. For example, if the assignment calls for a minimum of 4 pages and you turn in three pages then the highest grade you can earn is a 75. Why? Because each page is worth 25 points in this instance (100/4 = 25 per page).

• All essays will be turned in through Blackboard. Your files MUST be .rtf files or Microsoft Word Files. No Works files or scans. PDF’s do not allow me to give you feedback.

• Essays are all due before class begins. If you do not make it to class or you think you will be late – you still need to turn in your essay via Blackboard by the day and time it is due.

• Your essays are FORMAL pieces of writing so no slang, no text language and no made up words like gonna, coulda, shoulda, hafta or catch phrases like “random” or “lit.” You will lose 10 points for each error of this kind you have in your paper.

• Using etc. in a paper is also considered slang, by the way.

• It takes me about a week to grade your papers and give them back. If by any chance I need more time, I’ll give you a heads up.

• If you can’t upload your documents to Blackboard for any reason, attach them to a course message and send them to me by your due date and time.

Essay One (Compare/Contrast): 2.5 page minimum (YOUR PAGE REQUIREMENTS DO NOT INCLUDE THE TITLE PAGE WHICH IS A SEPARATE PAGE BEFORE THE
ESSAY. You are to compare/contrast to pieces of advice. You can choose your audience and we will be talking about this in class because you also have to attach a separate sheet of paper with an audience analysis.

Grading Rubric for Essay 1:
Content (including source credits if you used sources) 30%
Essay Structure (Block or point by point) and Paragraph development 30%
Punctuation and Grammar 20%
Attention to Audience 20%

Essay Two: (Definition): 2.0 page minimum. You are going to choose a phrase or word that you and your family use and explain how you use it, who invented it, and any stories connected with this saying.

Grading Rubric for Essay 2:
Content 25%
Essay Structure and Paragraph development 35%
Punctuation and Grammar 20%
Use of imagery and dialogue 20%

Essay 3 Argument (this is a two part assignment): Minimum number of pages is 3 (not including Works Cited page and title page) and the minimum number of sources is 3. You MUST use MLA rules to credit your sources.

Part One: You must write a paper taking a stand advocating FOR or AGAINST an issue. You must do outside research for this.

You must have at least three sources. You must pick from the topics below:

- An essay for or against a border wall
- An essay for or against homeschooling
- An essay for or against beauty pageants (adult or children’s)
- An essay for or against going to College
- An essay for or against natural childbirth
- An essay for or against vaccines
- An essay for or against funding space programs
You can also pick one thing that you think would improve El Paso and write about it and support your argument for this improvement.

You should include some of the opposition arguments, but you should make it clear in your introduction and conclusion what side you are on.

You MUST credit your sources using MLA rules. This part is NOT optional. **In-text citations and a proper Works Cited page are REQUIRED. YOU NEED BOTH!**

This part of the assignment is **worth 50 points**. The grading rubric for this part of the essay is as follows:

Grading Rubric for Essay 1, Part I: (Based on a 100 point scale)

- Content (includes convincing argument, opposing arguments, and thorough discussion) 25%
- Essay Structure and Paragraph development 25%
- Punctuation and Grammar 15%
- MLA citations and Works Cited (includes good use of sources) 35%

**Part two of** the assignment involves you giving a short presentation to the class about your findings. This part of the assignment will be graded based on creativity, thoroughness of information presented and your ability to engage your audience. Your presentations should be no less than 5 minutes. Please be advised if you prepare a powerpoint presentation and we don’t have equipment available that day or the equipment doesn’t work, you should be ready to present anyway. **There are NO makeups on presentations for ANY reason.**

Each part of this assignment is worth 50 points.

Grading Rubric for Essay 3, Part II (based on a 100 point scale)

- Thorough discussion of convincing arguments 35%
- Meets time requirement 20%
- Good Presentation skills 25%
- Creativity 20%

**Essay Four: Memoir Essay: 2 pages minimum.** You will write about either a positive or negative experience you had in El Paso. You will write this essay to someone who has never been in El Paso. Please nothing about a quincenera. You need to include references to El Paso – we’ll talk about that in class – please don’t let me forget.

The Grading Rubric for Essay 4:

- Content 25%
- Essay Structure and Paragraph development 25%
- Punctuation and Grammar 25%
Essay Five: Literary Critical Analysis: 3 pages minimum (you must submit a printed copy AND an online copy) You will write a literary analysis (critical review, literary review, whatever you want to call it) on a piece of literature that I will assign to you. I will tell you which elements you need to discuss in your paper. If you use the internet or other research sources for this assignment, you will need to credit the source. Talk to me about how to do it. You will get no mercy if you do not credit your sources. You can include your opinion about the literary elements and/or story in this paper. You can also relate an experience or two of your own to the story, but your paper should not be solely your experiences. You must clearly identify the literary elements you are talking about. For example, if you’re talking about symbols, make sure you tell me if they are contextual or universal and what they stand for. You are REQUIRED to use quotes from the story to support your points.

****IMPORTANT!!! A Literary Critical Analysis is NOT a summary of the story – it is an analysis of elements in the story and an explanation of WHY these elements contributed to the main message of the story.

Tips: Remember the title of a short story goes in quotes and all major words in a title are capitalized. You must introduce quotes with a SIGNAL phrase. The last name of the author and the page number of the quote go in parenthesis after the quote.

Grading Rubric for Essay 5:
Content 25%
Essay Structure and Paragraph development 25%
Punctuation and Grammar 25%
MLA citations and Works Cited 25%