

Professor Simpson
English 1
Spring 2015

SHORT ESSAYS

Starting with the February 23 reading assignment (Gardner), all students must write a short essay in response to the assigned readings. Starting February 25, one short essay will be due in class every Wednesday (no email submissions) for the next ten Wednesdays as indicated on the class schedule.

Each short essay should be **no longer than one page** (about 250 - 300 words). Each short essay should contain the following:

1. A statement of the thesis of the assigned reading in about 25 words or less.
2. A summary of about 100 words explaining the most important argument(s) in the assigned reading that supports the thesis.
3. Express your personal reaction in about 50 to 100 words that discusses the truthfulness and clarity of the thesis and the important supporting arguments.

All short essays must be typed and double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper with one-inch margins. Use 12 point Times New Roman font only.

Give your essay a title. Please put your name in the upper left hand corner of your paper. Do NOT put the date, my name, the course title, or the section number, etc., on your paper.

The first time you submit a short essay that uses the wrong font or has other formatting issues, it will be returned for you to resubmit using the correct font and/or formatting. Resubmits must be turned in by the last regular day of class (Monday, June 8). Subsequent short essays submitted using the wrong font or formatting will have 1 - 5 points deducted from the score for that short essay.

Each short essay is worth 25 points. Ten short essays are assigned, for a total of 250 possible points.

Late short essays are not accepted and will receive a zero.

WHAT IS A GOOD SHORT ESSAY?

The well-written short essay:

- Follows the short essays assignment closely.
- Clearly states the main idea (thesis) of the essay you're writing about.
- Is written in clear sentences, with good examples and details.
- Uses pre-essay brainstorming and notes to help organization and details.
- Shows familiarity with the reading assignment in question.
- Is logically organized and uses clear transitions.
- Does not use truisms or generalizations, especially at the beginning.
- Is not jumpy or random.
- Is written in standard English with no major errors of grammar or diction.
- Contains no spelling errors.
- Is carefully proofread and edited before finishing.

INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES

An individual conference with Professor Simpson is required of each student. Individual conferences are scheduled for May 13, 18, 20 and 27 during regular class time. An individual conference sign up sheet will be passed around during class on Monday, May 11. All students must sign up for a conference on that sign up sheet. Conferences will be for ten to fifteen minutes.

You are responsible for being at your conference at the time and date that you are signed up for. That is the only class or assignment responsibility for each student for the dates listed above.

Failure to appear for an individual conference will result in a zero for class participation (10% of the course grade).