

Paper 2 : Definition Essay w/ Argumentation

Draft due on January 31, 2007 : [1000 words]

Essay utilizing definition (1000 words)

Subject Area: Etymology; Lexicon; Words; Personal experiences

Essay Type: Expository (w/ argumentation)

Readings: Magazine articles; Essays of definition

Contents:

The subject focus will be on etymology, lexicon or just words in general. The student will take one word and place it into a larger context of ideas and meaning. Though the essay will be expository, i.e., informative, it will also be argumentative in nature. Refer to the essay "Discrimination is a Virtue" on my website under "Articles and Handouts." At the end of the essay more explication on "Definition" as a rhetorical mode is given including suggestions.

Method:

Make your topic interesting to your readers. If it is boring for you, imagine how it will bore your audience. Revise, revise, revise. State your argument in the second paragraph (or thereabouts) after you have introduced your word. You must use the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED online). Weave an interesting essay that contains some etymology (history of the word) along with a personal experience or an example. Plan your essay beforehand: don't go beyond 3 or 4 major points. Remember to CRAFT your piece. Take your time and revise it thoroughly. Start at least one week or more before the deadline.

Format:

The composition will not exceed 1000 words (ca. 3.5 pages), double-spaced with Arial font size 12. If you need to cite (or paraphrase) an author, you can do so by using a parenthetical citation (in-text citation) and placing the bibliographic reference in the *Works Cited* section. (This section does not need to be in a separate page.) There should be one inch on all four margins of the paper. Your name and other information should be written on first page, left hand margin. MLA style sheet must be used.

Grammar and Style:

The composition must be impeccable. And in order to accomplish this, the writing must be free of any grammatical errors. The style must be pleasant and readable; no bumpy roads, no repetitions, and be sure to watch your "diction," that is, proper choice of words. Remember, knowing and targeting your audience is most important. Also, be sure that you have proper transitional devices between paragraphs, and that the writing has a logical sequence and order. Outlining beforehand will help you considerably. Don't scatter your evidences. Organize them by priority or impact. Above all, project your own *voice* and personality.

NOTE: Be sure to read the model essay on definition "Discrimination is a Virtue," posted on my website.