

Composition & Rhetoric
Professor Mignano -Brady
Fall 2016

Expository Essay Topics

Due : Tuesday, October 25th

Directions: Choose **one** of the following topics and write an expository essay illustrating your ideas based on the reading selections, videos, class discussions and lectures.

Your paper should be 3-4 pages (not including your works cited page), Typed 12pt Font, TNR, MLA format / double-spaced. Please be sure to have a proper heading, title and a running header of your last name and page. Please provide a Works Cited Page. In addition, you must have In-Text citations. **An Expository Essay requires that you incorporate both concrete examples and quotes in your paper. Visit the Writing Center on the Second Floor of the Library for assistance brainstorming, developing thesis and in-text citation. Please call in advance to make an appointment.**

Discuss the theme of identity in Sandra Cisneros' "My Name" and Gloria Naylor's "The Meaning of a Word". How do the authors clearly depict both cultural identity and inner conflict? Describe how inner conflict and cultural identity contribute to social identity? Describe how "words" in Naylor's essay and culture in Cisneros' essay, impact the writers understanding of themselves and the world around them? Draw a distinct connection to TWO of the three articles presented in our first writing workshop. These articles include "New Life in U.S. No Longer Means New Name" by Sam Roberts, "What's in A Name? Mixed', Biracial', Black'" by Martha Jones, Maiden Names on The Rise Again" by Claire Miller and Derek Willis.

Self-Transformation is the ability to transform, evolve, grow and develop within a particular realm that most often relates to identity. Unequivocally, self-discovery derives from self-transformation and the process by which a new self is born. Discuss self-transformation or reformulation as it is exemplified in Bharati Mukherjee's *Two Ways to Belong in America*. Discuss assimilation, acceptance, culture and community and the ways in which all of the above contribute to Bharati's understanding of the self? Relate this to one of the articles introduced in class. You can add an article of your choice. However, it will need to be approved by the teacher.

Discuss the concept of religion and identity. In what ways can religion play a tremendous role in "how we see ourselves" and "how others see us". Draw a comparison between religion and identity and the video "Young, Muslim and French". Evaluate and present a clear thesis of how secularism and religious freedom are at tremendous odds in France. Draw a parallel between the video and one outside source. (You may use any articles from class if it relates.) You may use an article that I gave you or an article that you find. Please be sure to evaluate your source and have it approved. In addition, please be sure to cite your source in a Works Cited Page.

Explore the concept of Perception as it relates to *Of My Friend Hector and My Achilles Heel* by Michael Kaufman and PBS video "Time for School." Illustrate the beliefs, attitudes, understanding and fears

associated with perception as it is clearly depicted in both the essay and the documentary. How does Kaufman's understanding of Hector enable the reader to closely examine social identity? Does education play a significant role in helping us to understand who we are? Can external forces alongside education become a dominant factor in our external/internal perspective? Draw parallels between the essay and the video. Students can add an additional article if they chose. Please see me if you decide to do that! I have recommendations.

William Ward passionately states that “The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires” (Teachers in Teaching 5). Interpret the quote by author and teacher William Ward. Discuss the theme of identity as it pertains to the power and influence of others. Discuss the ways in which Rowan in *Unforgettable Miss Bessie* clearly depicts the theme of identity and the ways in which others can help shape our understanding of the self and therefore our understanding of the world. Connect Rowland’s essay to that of Mike Rose’s essay “I Just Wanna Be Average” Is there a connection between inspiration, identity and one’s ability to succeed?

Your Choice: Is there a particular topic that interests you? Has something you heard about, read about or talked about led you to develop a theme that relates to identity? What would you like to illustrate? Is there a particular theme that you would like to discuss as it relates to this class? Please feel free to contact me after class to discuss your ideas!

Expository Essay Checklist

- Begin by using a pre-writing technique. You must pre-write.
- **YOU MUST IMPLEMENT THE SKILL OF ACTIVE READING BEFORE TACKLING THIS WRITING TASK.**

Check the boxes as you go!

	Do I have a clear and coherent THESIS that addresses my topic?
	Do I develop my thesis by providing CONCRETE EXAMPLES to support my thesis?
	Did I use QUOTES and PARENTHETICAL CITATION to further support my thesis? This is called in text citation (Brady 5). or .. According to Brady “ >>>>>>>>>>” (5).
	Does my paper flow? Is it ORGANIZED and broken up into well- developed PARAGRAPHS ?
	Did I proof-read my paper for any mistakes involving GRAMMAR, SPELLING and/or SENTENCE STRUCTURE.
	I was sure to use LANGUAGE that is appropriate in an academic paper? (I did not write the way I speak.)

	I provided a WORKS CITED PAGE at the end of my essay.
	I stapled the WORKS CITED PAGE and my OUTLINE /CLUSTER/CHART to the back of my essay.