

Final Assignment

New Window: Life, Death, and Dying

Due dates: **FINAL COPY of Essay is due at beginning of class on Thursday, June 4th.**

As stated in the syllabus, in the talk back assignments, and in class discussions, the essential question of this course has been:

How does our inevitable death affect the way we live?

In doing the work of the dialogue journals, you have answered that question from the perspective of 50 Cent, Robert Greene, Steven Levine, Virginia Morris, and Elizabeth Kubler Ross.

Now it is time to answer that question for yourself.

The assignment:

Content

Your piece must demonstrate that you understand the major concepts of the course. Specifically, your piece must explain a common theme between several, if not all, of the works we have read, and/or listened to. You should build an argument as to why you agree or disagree with this theme. Finally, your piece must also relate these ideas of death and dying to your own life, to your own experiences:

How does the concept of death inform the way *you* live?

Or, if you like step by step, try this:

1. Look back over your Talk Back assignments and/or the reading/listening assignments from the course.
2. Identify and write down the major themes of each reading.
3. Isolate one major thread or idea that runs among them. What do all of these readings about death and dying have in common?
4. Craft an argument as to why you do or do not believe in the particular theme you have identified.
5. In considering how this relates to you, consider answering the following questions:
 - a. So what? What good is this information? How can this inform how *you* live? What could you do differently?
 - b. How does this affect the way you think about death and dying?
 - c. How could this theme or idea inform the way you go about your average daily experiences? How could embracing this theme change the way you live?
 - d. And, finally, why is this worth studying, or even talking about?

Length

This essay needs to be of sufficient depth and quality to challenge you. This is the final piece for a semester-long class and should likely fall within the range of three to ten pages. You and Ken both have a pretty good idea of what your best writing looks like, how well crafted it can be, and how long. This should be among the best writing you are capable. To create less would be a disservice to you, to the class, and to the teacher.