

ENG 101 – Composition I
Dragan

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Essay #2 Midterm Review

****DATE AND TIME: TUE. NOV. 1st, 2022 (2:15 pm - 4:25 pm)**

We will have an in-class Midterm / Essay #2 on Nov. 1st, 2022 -- PLEASE BE ON TIME!

You will write for 2 hours on 2 essays -- with direct quotes and cites -- around 1 topic (out of 2 topics).

The target word count is 650 words.

All passing essays in ENG 101/ENG 102 need to be at least 600 words -- a LaGuardia English Department requirement. (The maximum word count is 900 words, which probably won't be a problem since we are writing this essay on paper to simplify submitting it. Your work will be scanned and graded electronically.)

*****IMPORTANT:** Please do not use the Internet to find other sources or words from other authors. Use only the readings from class, your notes and your ideas! If I find evidence of undocumented words or ideas from Internet sources (plagiarism), you will fail this assignment, so please avoid doing that! This essay will let your demonstrate your knowledge of our readings so far in the course.

Guidelines

Write for 2 hours on **one** of two prompts based on 2 ESSAYS from our online readings (posted online each week and collected together in the Course Pack):

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/eng101_coursepack_fall2022.pdf

• **Living Between Two Cultures : Is Having Two Cultural Identities Worth the Struggle or Conflict? (CHOOSE 2 SOURCES ONLY!)**

Amy Tan, "Mother Tongue," pp. 9-13 in the ENG 101 Course Pack

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/eng101_02_tan_mother_tongue_in_coursepack.pdf

Shirley Geok-Lin Lim, "Two Lives," pp. 15-18

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/eng101_02_lim_two_lives.pdf

Taneisha Grant, "To Speak Patois," pp. 19-22

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/grant_to_speak_patois.pdf

• **Work: What Period Was Better for Workers? Manual Labor in the Past or in the 21st Century? (CHOOSE 2 SOURCES ONLY!)**

Andrew Curry, "Why We Work," pp. 23-27

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/eng101_wk05_curry_essay.pdf

Charles Duhigg and David Barboza, "In China, Human Costs Are Built Into the iPad," pp. 83-99

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/eng101_wk6_ipad_factory_nyt_article.pdf

Sarah O'Connor, "Amazon Unpacked," pp. 100-111

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/eng101_reading_oconnor_amazon_unpacked.pdf

Alex Janin, "Thanks to Remote Work, Many in Gen Z May Never Work in an Office. Will It Matter?", pp. 28-32

https://www.lagcconline.com/eng101docs/eng101_janin_remote_work_gen_z.pdf

*****PLEASE NOTE YOU WILL ONLY BE WRITING ONE ESSAY.** WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO WRITE A PASSING ESSAY USING ONLY ONE SOURCE TEXT, **USING TWO ESSAYS FOR EVIDENCE WILL MAKE IT EASIER TO WRITE A FULL ESSAY OF AT LEAST 600 to 650 WORDS.**

- If you have access to a printer, you should definitely print out your 2 chosen essays ahead of time. You can even mark up your printed essays with quotes that you can use on the Midterm.
- It's totally fine to use the online versions of the readings. You will be writing the Midterm essay ON PAPER and can look at the readings on your laptop in our lab classroom.
- **YOU ARE EXPECTED TO USE SHORT DIRECT QUOTES**, not just your reactions or opinions to these readings! That means having access to the words of these authors – just like on the Online Reading questions.
- Use what you know from previous argumentative essays. You need to be able to take a position in a 1) short introduction (using the prompt statement as a starting point), then 2) write about 3 or 4 'evidence' paragraphs with quotes or ideas that are drawn from the text, and finally a 3) a short conclusion. **REMEMBER IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A THESIS OR MAIN IDEA THAT STATES YOUR POSITION CLEARLY AT THE END OF YOUR FIRST PARAGRAPH.**
- Aim for 650 words. Spend 10 · 15 minutes for 'pre-writing.' Write for about ~110 minutes Spend 10 minutes proofreading.

PUT THE WORD COUNT AT THE END OF YOUR ESSAY, like this (655 words). The maximum word count for this essay is 900 words.

- You are expected to cite by author last name and page number, for example:

The author says, "[QUOTE]" (Tan 14). In this quote, [EXPLAIN QUOTE].

- Use what you know about 'quote sandwiches': 1) introduce your quotes with a 'signal phrase,' 2) present or cite the quote using the correct citation style, then 3) follow up with some discussion or analysis of what you quote means and how it 'proves' your argument or moves the discussion forward. Don't let the text have the last word; don't leave any 'lonely quotes.'

The author writes, "[QUOTE]" (Tan 10). In this quote, [EXPLAIN QUOTE].

Aim to use 2 or 3 short quote (and quote sandwiches) with correct cites from both your source essays for a total of 4 to 6 quotes / cites for your essay.

- Be Ready With Evidence

Re-read / skim your texts. Use underlined quotes, (use bookmarks, post-it's, etc.) and get ready to be able to cite from your text, about 3 or 4 quotes to prove your point.

- Don't summarize the plot of your essay! (Many of these personal essays tell stories.) Instead, select evidence that proves your argument. It is all right to discuss individual scenes that prove a point.

- Sample Prompt:

In her essay "Two Lives," Shirley Geok-Lin Lim discusses her own personal story of losing a family member in her home country and the difficulties of living 'between two worlds. **In America today, those who live between two cultures are often traumatized by being forced to live neither here nor there. Do you agree or disagree?** Write an argument which discusses the difficulties (or opportunities) presented by living between two worlds discussing two essays -- Lim's essay, Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue" and / or Taneisha Grant's "To Speak Patois." Some questions to consider are: What is the conflict in your two essays? How does your author struggle with the expectations or rules from two different cultures? How well does your author 'resolve' or 'reconcile' their two identities by the end of their essay? Develop an essay in which you agree or disagree with the prompt question with 2 or 3 short quotes with citations from two essays for a total of 4 to 6 short quotes and cites. Be sure you develop an essay that argues clearly for one side or an essay with a beginning, middle and end using citations from two source essays.

***Of course, you do not have to answer all the prompt questions, but make sure you address the main issue or argument for your thesis. (Experience shows the most successful essays engage the prompt directly!) PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE MAIN PROMPT STATEMENT AT THE END OF YOUR FIRST PARAGRAPH IN A CLEAR THESIS STATEMENT.

- Writing an Introduction

To get started in a clear way, please use the following formula in your INTRODUCTION:

1) **Give us one sentence about what your essay is about generally.** This is your 'warm-up' sentence. Please use only one.

2) **Give us one sentence that describes what your 1st source essay is about.** Include the correct author and title of this source essay.

3) **Add another sentence on what your 2nd source essay is about.** Also include the correct author name and titles of this second source essay.

4) **End your introduction with the THESIS STATEMENT – in bold on the prompt.** Agree or disagree I clear language. *I agree that* [COPY THESIS STATEMENT] –OR- *I disagree that* [COPY THESIS STATEMENT].

Your introduction to a short essay like this should have only 4 sentences. Save the real discussion for the BODY of your essay.

- Sample Introduction

In their personal essays, several authors have described their struggles with living between two cultures. In Amy Tan's "Mother Tongue," she uses the examples of how her mother was treated differently and unfairly based on the way she spoke English to comment on issues around speaking different Englishes in American society. In Shirley Geok-Lin Lim's "Two Lives," the author shows us her real struggles to provide for her step family in her home country while studying in the U.S. I agree

in America today, those who live between two cultures are often traumatized by being forced to live neither here nor there.

[If you want to disagree, change the above last thesis sentence to “I disagree....”]

- **Use 4 Body Paragraphs with Quotes and Cites**

A good way to organize your evidence in your essay for the Midterm (and Final) is to use 2 body paragraphs for each of you two essays with 2 quotes / quotes sandwiches each, like this:

Body Paragraph 1 – Evidence from Tan’s essay on her mother

Direct quote from Amy Tan’s “Mother Tongue” – QUOTE / CITE / QUOTE SANDWICH #1

Direct quote from Tan’s “Mother Tongue” – QUOTE / CITE / QUOTE SANDWICH #2

Body Paragraph 2 – The ending of the essay – how successfully does Tan resolve her conflict?

Direct quote from Tan’s “Mother Tongue” – QUOTE / CITE / QUOTE SANDWICH #3

Body Paragraph 3 – Evidence from Lim’s essay on her struggle to provide for her step family & her intense conflict between American consumerism and traditional Malaysian family values

Direct quote from Shirley Geok-Lin Lim’s “Two Lives – QUOTE / CITE / QUOTE SANDWICH #4

Direct quote from Lim’s “Two Lives’ – QUOTE / CITE / QUOTE SANDWICH #5

Body Paragraph 4 – The ending of the essay – how successfully does Lim resolve her conflict?

Direct quote from Lim’s “Two Lives’ – QUOTE / CITE / QUOTE SANDWICH #6

Cite by the authors’ last names plus page #s:

The author says, “[QUOTE]” (**Tan 10**). In this quote, [EXPLAIN QUOTE].

The author writes, “[QUOTE]” (**Lim 15**). In this quote, [EXPLAIN QUOTE].

Discuss one source essay at a time. Don’t jump back and forth between sources. That can be really confusing.

- **Conclusion**

Add a short conclusion to your 5 or 6-paragraph essay.

Mark you conclusion with:

In conclusion, [START OF YOUR CONCLUSION]....

Do not repeat your thesis statement exactly – that’s very awkward in a short essay!

- Editing and Proofreading

Please spend some time editing and proofreading after you have finished writing it.

Check that you subjects and verbs agree. Check for sentence boundaries – run on sentences or comma splices. Check for confusing sentence styles / confusing sentence structure. (If a sentence is long and confusing, break it up into 2 or 3 shorter sentences!)

Make sure you avoid textspeak – use correct capitalization and punctuation.

Check that your cites are correct, including spacing and punctuation.

It’s a good idea to read your essay out loud (whisper) to yourself to catch words and phrases that don’t sound right.

(Optional) If you have time, count and put the number of words at the bottom of your essay, like this:

(650 words)

Make sure you have more than 600 words (the minimum for all passing essays in ENG 101 at LaGuardia) and less than 900 (the maximum word count for this essay).