

Online Assignments

N.B. This page has been constructed to help those students who may not have immediate access to Blackboard Learn. In order to submit work, all students must access and submit work through the BBL system.

All listed assignments must be completed by Wednesday at 2:00 PM. For example: assignments listed under the class date February 7th must be completed on Wednesday, February 6th by 2:00 PM. Any variations of this expectation will be listed next to the assignment. When you submit, please post under your complete name, and include the due date of the assignment.

Types of Assignments:

Weekly Reading Questions: Submit weekly reading questions on Blackboard Learn (BBL). Place your name at the top of the assignment. The questions will be due by 2:00 PM the Wednesday before class meets. Early submissions are always welcome.

Journals: Journals may be submitted to the *BBL assignments*. Please read all assignment instructions to verify where the assignment should be placed. Typically, the questions will be due by 2:00 PM the Wednesday before class meets. Early submissions are always welcome.

Discussion Link Postings: Various assignments will require group reading and peer response. Please note the weekly assignments that will be posted to the discussion link. These assignments will be read by peers and should be posted on the either on the Tuesday or Wednesday before our class meeting. This will provide your group members time to read your work over the weekend.

Many assignments have multiple components, and assignments may be added. Please read all instructions and preview assignments a week in advance so you are familiar with all the requirements. Assignments are posted under their due dates

February 6:

1. Thoughtfully complete the Metacognition exercise distributed in class and submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (Print a copy for your files; you will be using it later in the semester.) (10 points)

2. **Journal:** When have you felt strongly conflicting emotions over a person or an event: a relative, friend, breakup, ceremony, move? Describe the SETTING (in minute details) in 250 words. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (10 points).

February 12/13:

1. Flow workshop: Create 2 [freight](#) and 2 [telescope](#) sentences. Post these answers under the discussion link by Tuesday, February 12th. (12 points) (Review [Adios](#) if you have problems)

- Each freight sentence should be 6 lines long and numbered.
- Each telescope should contain 3 telescopes and 1 pan.

2. Locate freight and telescope sentences written by members of your discussion group. Offer feedback by posting a reply message on the discussion board. Comment on clarity of ideas and effectiveness of the freighting or telescoping technique. (Honesty is the best policy!) (2/13)

3. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments*. (Extra Credit!)

Didion Page 631

Questions on Meaning

1. While imparting facts about migraine, what does Didion simultaneously reveal about her own personality?

Questions on Writing Strategy

1. Didion's essay mixes subjective description based on personal experience with objective information based on medical knowledge. How does she signal her transitions from subjective to objective and from objective back to subjective?
2. Point to a few examples of sensuous detail in Didion's writing. What do such images contribute to the effect?

Gilbert Page 185

Questions on Meaning

1. What dominant impression does Gilbert create of Naples and the pizza she ate there? Does she state this impression in a thesis statement or is it implied?
2. What would you say is Gilbert's purpose in this essay?

Questions on Writing Strategy

1. Most of Gilbert's essay moves in spatial order, from the streets of Naples to a particular pizzeria to the table at which she and her companion ate. Paragraph 7, however, jumps to another city, where Gilbert explains that a friend gave her the name of the pizzeria and begged her to go there. Why do you think

Gilbert placed this paragraph in the middle of her essay, instead of at the beginning?

February 19/20:

1. Complete a 250 word journal where you use freighting, telescoping, and fusion/metaphor techniques to narrate a brief anecdote about an experience in your life that seemed momentous. Include scenes of the significant incidents, along with some statements about their significance. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments*(10 points)

2. Respond to the following question on your weekly reading. Submit to *the Discussion Board*. (15 points). (Post by 2/19)

From what you have seen of children and adults, do you agree with Dillard's characterization of the two groups (children throw themselves into activity and play with 100% effort while adults rarely make such a commitment)? Write a short, 300 word response comparing and contrasting children's and adults' attitude towards play. (You will have to generalize, but try to keep your statements and examples grounded in reality. Use both metaphor and flow in your response.)

3. In a minimum of 100 words, respond to a partner's discussion board posting by commenting on their ideas regarding the similarities and differences between children's and adults' attitude toward play. Use metaphor and fusion techniques. (10 points) (2/20)

February 26/27:

1. Write a 1-1 1/2page (250-350 words) example essay on any topic listed under question #1 (p.241) in the Bedford Reader. It must be posted on the Discussion Board for your discussion group by 2/28 and each group member should complete their responses by 2/26. It may not be more than 350 words in length. (20 points)

2. Guiding group discussion questions: Consider these elements as you post replies to your group members' essays. Comments should be composed in the form of one or two detailed paragraphs. (10 points) (2/27)

What general statement do the writer's examples illustrate? Are the examples clearly tied together by this general statement?

Does the writer have enough examples to establish the generalization, or will the reader's be left needing more?

Are the examples detailed? Does each example capture some aspects of the generalization?

Which examples relate least to the generalization? Should any examples be cut because they go off-track?

3. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (12 points).

Angelou: Page 113

Questions on Writing Strategy

1. Besides narration, Angelou also relies heavily on the method of description. Analyze how the narration depends on description in paragraph 27 alone.
2. How does Angelou build suspense in her account of the fight? At what point were you able to predict a winner?

Tan page 118

Questions on Writing Strategy

1. How does Tan draw her reader into the story right from the beginning?

Questions on Language

2. How does the narrator's age affect the tone of this essay? Give examples of language particularly appropriate to a fourteen-year-old.

Philbert: 130

Questions on Meaning

4. What would you say is Philbert's purpose for this essay? Is it primarily to inform readers about the death of a pet, or does he seem to have another purpose as well?

Question on Writing Strategy

1. What is the effect of Philbert's opening paragraph? Why does he begin the story at its end?

March 5/6:

1. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to *the Discussion Board* (15 points).

Cisneros writes about the discrepancy between aging and maturity; we never act our ages, but rather, we are an amalgamation of ages bound in a single person. Write your own brief essay about a how you or people you know don't just act their age, but all the ages they have experienced. Like Cisneros, make your philosophy concrete by creating an anecdote that develops a specific scene. Before or after the scene, explain the significance of the difference between maturity and age, and/or the importance of being able to express a full range of your age and experience. Use dialogue, flow sentences, and/or splitting the second strategies in your scene. 200 word minimum--(3/5)

2. In a minimum of 100 words, respond to a partner's discussion board posting by commenting on their anecdote and discussion. Use metaphor and fusion techniques. (10 points) (3/6)

March 12/13:

1. Search for examples of doublespeak in what you read and hear--on the evening news or in newspapers, in your lease, on medical forms, in advertising for food or medications or cars, in overheard conversations. In the course of two or three days, write down all the examples you find. Post these examples and an explanation for what they really mean, on the discussion board by 3/12; discussion replies are due 3/13. (Please read discussion board for complete instructions.)

2. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (14 points).

Dumas: 323

Questions on Meaning

2. In which sentence or sentences does Dumas state her thesis most directly?

Questions on Writing Strategy

3. What steps does Dumas identify in the process of hosting Iranian guests every weekend? How does she ensure her analysis has coherence?

Ericsson: 416

Questions on Meaning

3. If it were possible to eliminate lies from our lives, why would that be desirable?

Questions on Writing Strategy

2. At the beginning of each kind of lie, Ericsson provides an epigraph, a short quotation that forecasts a

theme. Which of these epigraphs work best, do you think? What are your criteria for judgement?

Lutz: Page 425

Questions on Meaning

1. What is Lutz's thesis? Where does he state it?

Questions on Writing Strategy

2. What principle does Lutz use for creating his four kinds of doublespeak--that is, what mainly distinguishes the groups?

March 19/20:

1. Write a short process analysis using a "workout" technique in Adios (90).

• **Create a Facial Pack** by giving instructions on a simple procedure--washing your face, throwing out the trash, giving someone a kiss, etc. by breaking the procedure into six, numbered steps and by giving each step its own jargoned label.

• **Create your labels** by using a thesaurus and thinking in terms of long, multi-syllabic words.

• **Title your subject, and any of its parts with original Facial Pack.**

• **Post the assignment on the Discussion Link** by Tuesday, March 19. (15 points)

2. Read your group members' Facial Pack and scrub the language by translating the process analysis into "standard" English. Do not read other group members' scrub attempts until you have posted a reply response on the discussion link. (Due 3/20) (5 points)

3. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (14 points).

Britt: Page 257

Questions on Meaning

1. Is the author's main purpose to make fun of neat people, to assess the habits of neat people and sloppy people, to help neat and sloppy people get along better, to defend sloppy people, to amuse and entertain, or to prove that neat people are morally inferior to sloppy people? Discuss.

Questions on Writing Strategy

2. Britt mentions no similarities between neat and sloppy people. Does that mean this is not a good comparison and contrast essay? Why might a writer deliberately focus on differences and give very little or no time to similarities?

3. Although filled with generalizations, Britt's essay does not lack for examples. Study the examples in paragraph 11, and explain how they do and don't work the way examples are supposed to, to bring the generalizations about people down to earth.

Barry: Page 263

1. What can you infer about Barry's attitude toward the differences between the sexes? Does he see a way out?

Questions on Writing Strategy

2. Barry's comparison is organized point by point--differences in sensitivity to dirt, then differences in sensitivity to sports. What is the effect of this organization? Or from another angle, what would have been the effect of a subject-by-subject organization--just men, then just women?

Mernissi: Page 287

Questions on Meaning

1. What two subjects does Mernissi compare? Where does she state her thesis initially, and where later does she restate and expand on it? What does Mernissi conclude is the same about the two subjects?

Questions on Writing Strategy

1. What is the purpose of paragraphs 6-7? What do these paragraphs contribute to Mernissi's larger point?

March 28: Spring Break

April 3:

1. Post a sample outline for a point-by-point and subject-by subject organization of a hypothetical essay on the following prompt: How does Hollywood's portrayal of war reflect changes in social temperament? Create a thesis statement that you would use if you were to write this essay and place it at the top of the page before your outlines.

3. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to the Discussion Board (15 points).

Sommers contends that gender differences are “hardwired” from birth, and boys and girls are unalterably different. Create a 250-350 word journal where you use sliced pie strategies from your *Adios, Strunk and White* reading in order to divide and analyze different types of boys and girls. Make certain that you provide metaphorical level for each “pie slice” (type of boy or girl) and compare and contrast types to develop your analysis.

April 10:

1. Journal (250 words): Swift's proposal is aimed at a serious social problem of his day. What problems can you think of today that--like the poverty and starvation Swift describes--seem to require drastic action? You might consider groups of people whom you regard as mistreated or victimized. (Use infer-styling techniques) Submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (10 points)

2. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (16 points).

Wenke: Page 568

Questions on Meaning

2. What does Wenke see as a possible negative consequence of cheating among students today?
3. What solution does Wenke offer for the problem of student cheating?

Questions on Writing Strategy

1. How effective do you find Wenke’s opening paragraph? What does it suggest to you about her intended audience?
3. What is the effect of Wenke’s admission that she herself copied homework from friends in high school (par. 9)? Does this admission add to or detract from Wenke’s ethical appeal?

Swift: Page 709

Questions on Meaning

1. On the surface, what is Swift proposing? Beneath his irony, what is Swift's argument?
2. What do you take to be Swift's purpose for this essay?

Questions on Writing Strategy

3. Describe the mask of the personage through whom Swift writes.

4. As an essay of argument, does "A Modest Proposal" appeal primarily to reason or emotion? (See page 521 for a discussion of the distinction.)

April 17:

1. Submit a proposal for your Research Paper to *Completed Online Assignments*. The proposal should include a thesis statement, the purpose of the paper and research, and an outline of the content that you will include in the paper. (5 points)

April 24:

1. Submit a synopsis of the research you have done on your research topic to *Completed Online Assignments*. Include the specific resources you have found and explain the information you intend to use. (10 points)

2. Complete the following questions on your weekly reading in complete sentences. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments*. (14 points).

Martin: Page 583

Questions on Meaning

1. Does Martin agree with fans and writers who argue that steroids destroy the "purity" of the sport? How can you tell?
4. What is Martin's thesis and where does he state it?

Questions on Writing Strategy?

1. In paragraph 6 Martin asks a series of questions. What is the purpose of these questions and what is their effect?

Villagomez: Page 591

Questions on Meaning

1. What is Villagomez's thesis and where does he state it? What does the thesis suggest may be Villagomez's assumptions about his reader's attitudes toward steroids in sports?

Questions on Writing Strategy

1. Why do you think Villagomez opens his argument as he does? What is the effect of this opening?
2. Why, in an essay written in 2006, does Villagomez devote an entire paragraph to the 1998 and 1999 baseball seasons? How is the old example central to his point?

May 1:

1. Provide an updated and specific outline of your research paper. Be certain that you include at least 3 different rhetorical modes (narration, division analysis, cause/effect, etc.) in support of your argument. The outline should also contain a counter-argument to your thesis. Submit to *Completed Online Assignments* (10 points). Complete the following question on your weekly reading. Submit to the Discussion Board (15 points). 200 words minimum

May 7/8:

1. Both Leong and Naylor show that racist language can be taken over by those against whom it is directed. They also show that for groups or communities to redefine, and thus to own, these racist slurs can be empowering. Are their arguments and definitions of these racist terms convincing? Explain your opinion on this issue. (5/7)

2. In a minimum of 100 words, respond to a partner's discussion board posting by commenting on their ideas. Use metaphor and fusion techniques. 10 points (5/8)

May 15:

1. Using 3 Adios "Talking Words" techniques discussed in class; create a mini, 3 paragraph definition on one of the following terms. Bring a copy of the essay to class. Post the mini-essay on the *Completed Online Assignment* link. (15 points)

Happy

Envious

Recession

Sloppy

Prude

2. Complete the following questions and submit to *Completed Online Assignments*.

Sowell: Page 503

Questions on Meaning

1. What would you say is Sowell's underlying purpose in offering his definition?

Questions on Language

2. What is Sowell's reason for writing about food in paragraphs 9-11 and his old car in paragraphs 15-17? Do you think these examples help clarify his point?

Jones: Page 543

Questions on Meaning

1. Where does Jones state her thesis? What is it? Why doesn't she include it in her introduction?

Questions on Meaning Writing Strategy

2. Explain how Jones uses concrete images to explain an abstract concept. What makes her analogy effective as a definition?

May 24:

1. Complete the [metacognition paper](#). Bring to class for the final exam (75 points)