

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

For this final assignment you are to select **one** of the first 3 essays and extensively revise it. Select an essay you are willing to invest another 4-5 hours in. Remember that my expectations go up, and you are **not guaranteed** the same score as before. Your score may actually drop if you do not seriously invest the time to make your essay better. This essay does not replace the original essay grade; instead, it is your final exam score. Consult your syllabus for the weight of the final exam.

What **DO** I and **DON'T** I mean by revision? **Naturally you shouldn't limit your revision merely to spelling, mechanics, or grammatical concerns.** While these are necessary areas to address before you can have clear, strong writing, you must first be sure your writing is DEVELOPED, STRUCTURED, AND ORGANIZED.

Ask yourself these questions on this checklist as you revise:

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| √ Have I carefully followed directions in the essay assignment and ALL the instructor's comments? (Remember that I do not mark everything in your essay. Once you see a mistake, assume others are in your paper; then, look for and fix them.) | √ What about ORGANIZATION: Does the BODY of my essay make sense, or does it jump around from idea to idea? |
| √ Do I have a super clear THESIS at the end of the introduction? | √ All good writing is ORGANIZED so that you lead your reader from one idea to the next idea. You accomplish this smoothness with TRANSITIONS-- you know, those things that help connect ideas and help the essay flow better for the reader. Are those transition bridges in <u>your</u> essay? |
| √ Do I have a great opening line that really hooks the reader's attention? | √ Does my essay have a clear CONCLUSION? Your essay should have something to say by making a point and also come to an end, to a sense of closure for the reader. <u>Avoid summaries. They insult good readers.</u> |
| √ Have I provided enough examples, facts, and illustrations to support and develop my thesis? The more important question is "And are they the best examples I can think of?" | |

Once you have checked to make sure all these areas are working smoothly in your essay, *then* it is time to do the editing: stuff like spelling, diction, mechanics, grammar problems.

Your paper must be written in standard analytical / expository form and must have an introduction (with a thesis / claim), a main body, and a conclusion. It must follow the basic conventions of standard written English (correct spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, usage, and so forth).

What you turn in to me:

1. I need to see all the **graded draft(s)** with all my comments. Place the most recent draft on top (the one for this revision assignment).
2. Submit a cover sheet that lists/details the revisions and other work you put into the final exam. Start with the essay template and include the heading and title. You may enumerate your items or use bullet points; just be sure that you communicate clearly what work you have done. This cover page should not exceed 1 page. Without this cover page, your final exam is incomplete will receive a failing grade.
3. Additionally, you **must** isolate **2 sentence-level errors** (e.g. sentence boundary errors, s/pl, s-v, etc.) you're having trouble with and make sure that they appear nowhere in your essay. Proofread especially for these two, but don't overlook other ones. Indicate the two errors you've removed by listing them as the first 2 bullet points in item 2 above.

Assemble your final exam in the following order:

- cover sheet on top
- revised essay in the middle
- old graded essay on the bottom

THE ESSAY CRITERIA AND PAGE LENGTH SHOULD BE THE SAME AS THAT REQUIRED ON THE ORIGINAL ASSIGNMENT, BUT IT MAY BE LONGER IF PART OF YOUR REVISION INVOLVES EXPANDING YOUR THOUGHTS. REFER TO THE ORIGINAL ESSAY ASSIGNMENT FOR SPECIFICS. **FAILURE TO MEET THE MINIMUM PAGE LENGTH WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC GRADE OF "D" FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.**