

ESSAY 1: "The Mommy Wars"

Writing Situation: This source book of readings on the "Mommy Wars" engages us in a public debate that is taking place in both the public and academic spheres, and you are a part of this debate. Your job in this essay you will write is to participate in this ongoing discourse, but at an academic level.

Assignment Options:

1. Write a persuasive essay in which you focus on one of the motherhood myths discussed in Johnston and Swanson's "Motherhood Ideologies and Motherhood Myths" and dispel that myth about motherhood. You should clearly identify the myth in your introductory paragraph and sufficiently explain the myth so that your audience understands the myth. Then your essay should be devoted to showing why the myth about motherhood is false.
 2. Write an argumentative essay in which you synthesize the various positions in the "Mommy Wars" and ultimately argue for your own view. You must clearly explain what the controversial issue is as you view it so that your introductory paragraph sets the context. There is more than one context here, too.
- Your essay must incorporate at least 2 but no more than 4 sources from the assigned readings. No outside research is necessary.
 - You must use the MLA documentation system (in-text parenthetical citations and a works cited page).

I will base your grade on the following criteria:

1. A close reading of the assigned readings.
2. Organized thoughts.
3. Standards of good essay composition, such as an explicitly asserted, arguable thesis statement, clear and focused paragraph development that explores and supports your thesis, Standard American Written English (SAWE).

Use a title that has 2 parts. The main title should be inventive but reflect the nature of your paper. Separate this title from the subtitle with a colon. For example: The Mommy Wars: Breaking the Myth of the Intuitive Mother.

Additional requirements:

1. **Page length:** 4-5 pages; anything less than 4 full pages will not earn anything higher than a D grade.
2. **Audience:** All of the authors in the assigned readings for the source book on "The Mommy Wars".
3. **Writing Modes:** expository, analytical, and persuasive or argumentative.
4. **Titles:** Cite the outside works correctly with underscoring or italics.
5. **Documentation:** Add a Works Cited (singular) page giving the text from which you are citing.
6. A thesis statement in the introductory paragraph.
7. Clear logical essay structure.
8. Focused paragraphs guided by topic sentences.

PEER CRITIQUE DRAFT DUE: 18 Sep. 2007

FINAL DRAFT DUE: 26 Sep. 2007