

Formal Essay #4 Prompt

For this final essay, you've read (or will read):

"We Do Abortions Here" by Sallie Tisdale

"Indian Education" by Sherman Alexie

"You Are the Second Person" by Kiese Laymon

"Bad Feminist" by Roxane Gay

Choose one of these existing essays, and then write a "cover version" of it—as if you were a musician doing a cover of an original song. How can you make one of these essays relevant to a new situation?

Your task is to identify the central argument of the essay, then re-imagine the author's argument with your own perspective, experience, and voice.

For example:

In "We Do Abortions Here," Sallie Tisdale writes about a very polarized topic—abortion—without ever picking a side of the abortion debate. She uses her own experience and perspective to show the realities of abortion, not the politics behind it.

Think about some other issues that are polarized and political in America. Do you have a personal experience with one of these issues? How could you use your experience to show the realities of the issue, not the politics or talking points?

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