

## *Essay III, Final Portfolio, and Cover Essay Prompt*

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English 101 culminates in a final portfolio. This is the final and most heavily weighted assignment in every 101 class across the University. As stated on our syllabus, the portfolio will be worth 30% in our class. It will include:

1. A Third Essay
2. A Cover Essay
3. Many additional documents from across the semester that are relevant to 1 and 2
4. A Table of Contents

### The Third Essay

Your third essay is to be a significant revision of Essay 2. In addition to taking into account feedback from your instructor and peers, you will need to expand its length to **1000 words**, 12 point font, MLA style). This expansion needs to incorporate **outside research**. Use, at least, four sources (all of which must be scholarly). For those of you who are writing on texts that may not have sources about the piece itself, you will need to find pieces that speak generically to your project. For example, if you are writing on an obscure sermon of Rev. MacVicar, perhaps you can find articles on the rhetoric of preaching.

In class we will discuss the differences between scholarly and popular sources, and strategies for including your research in the essay. You will need to include **both** occasional citations and a paragraph or footnote that situates what you say within what others are saying. A Works Cited is also required, but does not count toward your 1000 words.

A preliminary final copy of essay 3 is due when you confer with me in a one-on-one session during the week of Nov. 17-21.

### PORTFOLIO

Essay 3 will then become a key part of your semester portfolio. You may revise it again after the one-on-one conference. All other documents in the portfolio will provide context for the process by which you developed your ultimate version of Essay 3.

### Cover Essay

This semester you have developed a faculty of rhetoric within yourself that allows you to choose apt words for a situation and an audience. This Cover Essay is your chance to explain some of your choices in Essay 3 by engaging in a self-analysis of your invention, organization, and style. The Cover Essay does not count toward your 1000 words, and should be 1-2 pages long. When you discuss your invention, be sure to note your thesis and by what process it has become focused and argumentative. Also, be sure to examine and evaluate your success at analyzing the evidence via showing (rather than telling) in body paragraphs. When reflecting on organization, include a statement of what type of introduction and conclusion techniques you are employing in essay 3 and

## Essay II

For the second essay, you must first select an **argumentative** text. It should be relatively short (no more than the length of our average readings in this class) and also a rich piece of writing that rewards re-reading. For example, an editorial from yesterday's newspaper will likely not fit your purposes, even though it has an argument. In fact, please do not choose any writing that is less than 40 years old. The best texts will be speeches, argumentative essays, other non-fiction argumentative works, or persuasive speeches from within a fiction. Remember it is important that your text is making an **argument**. If you choose a text not originally written in English, take care that the translation selected has a style that is analyzable. Avoid texts that we are reading together in class.

Here is a very incomplete list of possible texts. Note that these are texts that have a degree of nuance which will allow for in-depth study

Pericles's Funeral oration  
 A speech of Demosthenes  
 A speech of Cicero  
 A Federalist paper  
 An anti-Federalist paper  
 A speech in Milton's *Paradise Lost*  
 An essay by Samuel Johnson

A notable sermon (e.g. John Donne)  
 A speech or writing of Lincoln  
 Montaigne's essay On Solitude  
 Cicero's essay On Old Age  
 A letter of Abigail Adams  
 A speech of Martin Luther King Jr.  
 A speech of John F. Kennedy

These are just a few choices among a great many.

First, compose and type a paragraph that explains how the text that you have chosen meets the requirements. Add another paragraph that explains why you will not get bored with your text. Furthermore, complete a rhetoric diamond for your text, identifying the speaker, audience, topic, and goals of the text, as well as the situation in which it was given. You may omit the means that your author uses to achieve his or her end. You may hand these paragraphs and the rhetoric diamond in on 10/24. Please also attach a photocopy of the text that you have selected.

Now craft a thesis-driven, academic essay which answers the question: **What is my text's end, and how do its means of invention, organization, and style help or hinder the author's ability to persuade his or her audience?**

You do not need to answer every aspect of this question. However, let the question lead you to an assertive, focused thesis statement upon which you make good on in your essay. Remember that the "success" of an author's act of persuasion can be thought of in terms of whether or not the audience was actually persuaded and/or in terms of whether or not the author used all of the appropriate, available means of persuasion. Your essays should focus on the latter criterion for success. I hope that this distinction will help to clarify your own thoughts, as you develop a thesis. **AVOID ANY OUTSIDE RESEARCH** for the essay.

Your essay should be 2-3 pages (500-750 words in MLA format). Prepare what you consider to be a final copy for the workshop on 10/29. The ultimate copy is due on 11/5.

why you chose these techniques. Reflect on the ordering of your proofs as well. Regarding style, analyze your diction and your sentences (variety, continuity, etc.). Also, point out any energetic figures of speech that you have crafted, and explain how they help prove your thesis. Your reflections (on invention, organization, and style) will often be best assisted by providing specific examples. For example, you could quote a passage from a rough-draft and then unpack how you have revised the passage to improve your diction. Lastly, in a separate and final paragraph of the Cover Essay, explain how your case fulfills the definition(s) of rhetoric proposed by Aristotle and/or Plato. The Cover Essay should be the very last thing you write this semester. Let it be a final task once the rest of your portfolio, and especially Essay 3, is finished.

#### Additional Documents & Table of Contents

Gather into a folder or binder these two documents (cover essay and ultimate copy of essay 3), as well as any drafts or short assignments that have helped you toward your final product. For example, if the short assignment in which you made multiple types of introductions for essay one helped you understand how to write an interrogative introduction and you fashioning such an introduction in essay three, you would want to include the introduction short assignment and would want to refer to it in your Cover Essay. (It is especially important to include any drafts/assignments that you reference in the Cover Essay.) Be sure to include your final copy of essay 2 (not a clean copy, but the one with my markings). Place a Table of Contents, listing all the documents included, as the first page of the portfolio. Have this Table followed immediately by the Cover Essay and Essay 3 (ultimate final copy). Order all other documents as you think best for your self-presentation.

Because the portfolio is a University-wide assignment, my evaluation of your work will rely on our usual invention, organization, and style rubric AND on a University-wide rubric. Because you have become accustomed to thinking about evaluation in terms of the former, you may want to continue to consider only invention, organization, and style. However, the University rubric is in your manual, and we will review it so as to clarify the expectations of the assignment via a new vocabulary.

- 1-on-1 Conference with Instructor on 11/19 or 11/21

**BRING Final Copy of ESSAY 3. If you do not show up for the meeting or do not bring ESSAY 3, then 10 PERCENTAGE POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR FINAL PORTFOLIO GRADE.**

- The Final Portfolio is due on the last day of class (12/5)