

EH 101.105, COMPOSITION I

Essay 3

Informative Essay with Surprise Reversal

Due Dates:

Drafts Due – Wednesday, 10/7

Drafts for Peer Review – Wednesday, 10/14

Submission Date – Friday, 10/16

Length: 4-5 pages (approximately 1200-1500 words), plus Works Cited page

Value: 150 points (15%)

Assignment: Write an essay on an issue of your choice in which you employ the surprising-reversal strategy. As *The Allyn & Bacon Guide* explains on page 34, the surprising-reversal strategy broadly looks like this: “*Many people believe X (common view), but I am going to show Y (new, surprising view).*” The issue you choose should be from your major. Be aware that this is an informative paper, which means that it should report its information as neutrally as possible. It needs to offer objective evidence or a chain of reasons using as little effort as possible to appeal to your audience’s emotions. Your audience in this case is composed of students who are not majoring in your discipline.

Elements and Outline of Your Paper: Like Essay 1, this essay is a closed-form essay, which means that the form largely is already determined. It is up to you to follow that form and to manipulate it only where you absolutely have to. In this case, your essay will have four parts:

1. The *introduction* will pose the question that your informative essay intends to answer. It engages the readers’ interest and provides the necessary background and context so that your readers can understand the issue in general.
2. The *Body Section 1* will be an overview of the common or popular answer to the question you posed in the introduction. This section largely will be composed of a summary of an article that presents the common or popular perspective on the issue. Please review the “Criteria for an Effective Summary” on page 90 of the *Allyn & Bacon Guide*. The text you summarize must be listed on your Works Cited page.
3. The *Body Section 2* will be your response to the answer. It will begin with your delayed thesis – your surprising-reversal answer to the question you posed in the introduction. It will then support your response with information from personal experience or research. Any sources you use must be listed on your Works Cited page.
4. The *Conclusion* suggests the significance of your perspective on the question.

Getting Started: Trying to write linearly – from introduction to conclusion – usually is not a good strategy. Try starting by summarizing an article that offers a view that generally contrasts with yours. Then develop your own view by selecting evidence that refutes the article’s view. Or first write out your own view and then seek an article that states a position that differs from yours.

Drafts: Your drafts on 10/7 should at least have efforts at the two body parts and the introduction, but it may be only three pages or so. The more you have, the more I can help you.

Peer Review: You must have a draft for peer review on 10/14 or you will not be able to participate and will be marked absent.

General Grading Criteria: Your essay will be evaluated according to the “Shared Criteria for Evaluating Writing” found on pp. 607-609. I will expect you to make a reasonable effort to address any mechanical errors (grammar and spelling), but this aspect won’t be as important as the others. Your essay also must use the surprising-reversal thesis strategy; the summary of the opposing view should be neutral and complete; and your information and reasoning should be relevant and credible.

You must submit a copy of the article you summarized with your draft and final paper.