

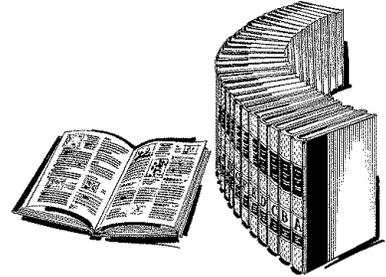
ESSAY #1: Experiencing Literature WRITING SAMPLE

Background

All literature affects its readers in one way or another. William Styron, an American novelist, once wrote, "A great book should leave you with many experiences and slightly exhausted at the end. You should live several lives while reading it." Since this course revolves around writing about literature, for this first essay, I want you to think about a piece of literature that has affected and/or influenced you the most, be it a poem, a story, a tale, a novel, a play or some other literary work. No movies or television shows for this assignment, please.

Your Task

Write a well-organized essay discussing how and why this piece of literature has influenced you. Rather than simply reiterate the plot or describe the characters, examine and explain the ways how as well as the reasons why this poem, story, or book has influenced you. In what ways were you able to connect to this text? Was it the story, a certain character, the language used? Were there any particularly memorable images or moments from the text? How did these things affect you? What experiences did the text leave you with?



Even though this is a short essay, you should include an introduction and thesis statement, one that focuses on the main point of your essay but is broad enough to cover all the points you make. Use examples to support your main points.

Instructions

- For this first essay, spend about 1/2 hour planning out what you want to write and spend about an hour writing it out. Read over your first draft and make changes, then proofread carefully.
- Don't spend hours and hours on this essay or get excessive help from either a person or any other resource. This essay is mainly for me to get an idea of what you can do on your own without a lot of help. This essay will not receive a grade but I will give you feedback on it and you must turn it in on time to remain enrolled in this course.
- Essays which are basically narrative (stories) or are written in excessively simple, choppy prose will be unacceptable.
- Your writing will be evaluated for its organization and content as well as for spelling, punctuation and sentence structure. This paper should be approximately 3-5 pages long and, like all of the essays in this class, must be typed using regular (12 point) font and double-spaced on 8.5" x 11" paper with 1" margins all around.

On the first page, have the proper heading on the left side of the paper:

Your first and last name
Literature 265 AA
Ms. Erpelo
Essay #1
January 19, 2006
Final Draft

You should also have a title — be creative! — but you do not need a separate title page. Please staple all of the pages together and number the pages. Make sure that you proofread your essay carefully before you turn it in.

FINAL DRAFT DUE:

January 19, 2006 at the beginning of class
Bring two (2) copies of your essay.