Final Essay

Final takes place on Thursday, May 2nd at 8am in our usual classroom.

You may bring one page of notes/outline and citations or quotes to the final. You may not copy your essay word-for-word. Come prepared to compose in class. Blue books will be provided. Please bring a pencil or pen and your Bedford Handbook.

Watch a film outside of class that you feel is an important, interesting film. The film should raise issues that interest you and that you feel should interest your teacher and your fellow students. You may choose a film you’ve seen before but be sure to watch it again before the final in order to refresh your memory.

Prompt:

Write an in-class essay answering one of the following questions about your selected film:

1. What important issues does this film raise and why it is important for students at Texas State to care about these issues?

2. What does this film say about contemporary culture and how might one live differently after seeing the film?

3. How has this film changed the way you see the world and what will you do differently now that you’ve experienced another perspective?

Requirements:

There is no specific length requirement; however essays should be complete and concise. An effectively organized and argued essay will run about three to five hand-written pages.

Essays must include quotes from the film with proper parenthetical citations and works cited page.

Essays must include quotes or paraphrases from two additional sources that answer questions posed by the film or support your argument. Sources do not need to be scholarly; however, they must be correctly cited.

The purpose of these citations is to ensure that you can properly cite sources both in the text and in your works cited page. Include in your notes an alphabetized lists of works cited or copy your works cited into your blue book.

Grading:

Papers will be graded based on the overall quality of your argument and the accuracy of your citations.
Date and Time: Thursday, May 2nd, 11AM-1:30PM.
Bluebooks will be provided.

Prompts (choose one)
1. Write an essay to next year's first-year English students, in which you do both of the following:
   a. Explain how English 1310 and 1320 (or just 1320, if you did not take 1310 at Texas State) differ from high school English classes, or from what high school students may have been led to expect.

   b. Share strategies you have learned this year that have improved your writing. You may include some basic “how to succeed in college” advice (visit the writing center, get to know your instructor, etc.), but you should also include strategies specific to the writing process. Quote from your own writing to provide specific examples of these strategies in action.

2. What, in your view, are the most important qualities of an effective academic paper? Include 3 to 5. Define each quality, and quote from your own writing to illustrate how you achieved (or did not achieve) these qualities.

3. Argue whether or not art can be as, or more, effective as language to express thoughts, emotions and abstract ideas. Think of your Art & Atrocity essay; Waste Land; your creative project; cite specific support from these resources to support your argument.

Tips for Success
- Employ the principles of organization and argumentation that we have practiced this semester. Develop a thesis to guide your essay, and organize each paragraph around an argumentative point.
- Illustrate each point with specific examples from your experience and your writing. The more developed your paragraphs, the more successful your essay will be.
- While I do not expect you to edit these essays as rigorously as you would an out-of-class paper, you should pay attention to the quality of your prose. Make sure that your tone, word choice, and sentence structure are appropriate for academic writing. Proofread for small errors before you turn your essay in.
- Your essay should be as long as it needs to be to answer the prompt completely. Depending on your handwriting, this will most likely be 3-5 handwritten pages.