

ENGL 2132  
Prof. Bishop  
Spring 2010  
Essay #1

Objective: For this essay students will demonstrate their understanding of the periods known as the Enlightenment, Colonialism, and Romanticism, as well as their ability to synthesize ideas across varying texts.

Guidelines: Write a well-developed essay of at least 750 words that addresses one of the topics listed below. The essay should be in MLA format, using *no outside sources*.

- a) Write an essay that explores one of the eight primary characteristics of Romanticism as it develops through two or three of the texts covered in class. Make sure you focus on small instances of these ideas and articulate how and why they appear in the manner they do. Be specific and explain your ideas thoroughly.
- b) Write an essay that explores the development of “American” characteristics as they develop through two or three of the texts covered in class. Make sure you focus on small instances of these ideas and articulate how and why they appear in the manner they do. Be specific and explain your ideas thoroughly.
- c) Write an essay that attempts to explain why authors such as Crèvecoeur, Franklin, Mann (by proxy Cooper), Emerson, Whitman, and Melville focused on such similar (or differing) traits of American-ness. Make sure you focus on small instances of these ideas and articulate how and why they appear in the manner they do. Be specific and explain your ideas thoroughly.
- d) How do later authors, such as Emerson, Whitman, and Melville, reject the tidy assumptions and advice offered by earlier writers such as Crèvecoeur and Franklin? Make sure you focus on small instances of these ideas and articulate how and why they appear in the manner they do. Be specific and explain your ideas thoroughly.
- e) How does the American self develop through two or three of the texts? Do you see a direct lineage from one text to another? Why might this development be important in terms of “selling” the idea of America. Make sure you focus on small instances of these ideas and articulate how and why they appear in the manner they do. Be specific and explain your ideas thoroughly.
- f) Burger King. Have it your way.

Additional notes:

- No outside sources may be used. You may use your book and any handouts on the course web site. No other sources will be accepted. Any essay that uses outside sources will fail and will violate the Academic Integrity Policy of this course. If you have taken notes in class, you have plenty of material with which to work. If you have not taken notes...
- The essay will be graded using the class Rubric available on the course web site.
- The essay must adhere to MLA formatting and guidelines for essays.