

## ESSAY #2: EXPOSITORY

*In seeking truth you have to get both sides of a story.*

-Walter Cronkite

Choose **one** of the following two prompts for your essay of **450-550 words** (about 2 pages double-spaced):

1. In various *New York Times* articles (“In Tunnel, ‘Mole People’ Fight to Save Home,” “At the End of the Tunnel, a Home,” and the op-ed “Homes for the Invisible”), we have read about the phenomenon of homeless people living in shantytowns deep within the city’s subway tunnels. (For more information, our textbook also discusses this topic at length. See “The Homeless” by Margaret Morton, *The Place Where We Dwell*, p. 195.)

a) Write an op-ed (of at least 225 words) from the point of view of an Amtrak spokesperson, in which you lay out a well-reasoned argument for why the homeless people living in the tunnels should be forcibly evicted. This **complete, self-contained** opinion essay should be at least three paragraphs long, and should **include an introduction, at least one body paragraph, and a conclusion.**

b) Then write another **complete, self-contained** op-ed (of at least 225 words) from the point of view of one of the so-called “Mole People,” in which you lay out a well-reasoned argument for why the homeless should be allowed to stay in the tunnels. This should also **include an introduction, at least one body paragraph, and a conclusion.**

2. In “From Doo Wop to Hip Hop,” Mark Naison claims that the cultural atmosphere of the 1950s is expressed in the Chantels’ song “Maybe,” while the spirit of the 1980s is embedded in Grandmaster Flash’s song “The Message.”

What song do you think most accurately represents the world we live in today? Choose one song of your own (**not** “Maybe” or “The Message”) and—paying close attention to its lyrics and/or melody, rhythm, and overall mood—make an argument for why it best depicts an important aspect (or several important aspects) of contemporary life and culture.