

## ESSAYS FOR 1101CO

### **Essay #1 The Place Where You Dwell**

We've read several essays about different neighborhoods in New York City and the way they have shaped the writer. Now you will write a description of your own neighborhood in this famous city. In your essay, you want to have scenes with a lot of details. Describe your overall experience of your neighborhood and then use three supporting ideas that describe that experience in different, distinct ways. Please be sure to include the characters, tastes, sounds and sights of your neighborhood and compare them to other places you have lived. You can compare or contrast your feelings about your neighborhood with that of the other writers we have read. (750 words minimum.)

### **Essay #2 Change is Hard Important**

**4-5 pages (about 1500 words) This is your research paper for the class.**

What is the most important issue affecting you personally? How would it feel if an important writer took up your cause? What articles would she generate? What letters would she send? Guess who the most important writer is in your life? One of the most important and empowering aspects of becoming a writer is sharpening your ability to change the world around you using words.

Choose a current issue—local, national, or international-- about which you are passionate. You may focus on a local New York issue (K-12 education; CUNY; gentrification in a particular neighborhood, bike lanes, affordable housing, the state of the subway, monuments, LGBTQ spaces, the parks system, etc) or one of national or international significance. Construct your own argument about this issue in a 4-5 page paper that incorporates two secondary sources. We will go over examples together. Sources must be cited in MLA format in the text and on a Works Cited page. You may use a text from *The Place Where We Dwell* as long as it was not discussed in class.

For this essay, you are going to use words to change something. You are going to start a change in your community through a letter, a presentation, be it power point or video, and an action. Begin with what really irks you, or scares you, and describe it vividly. Now use your imagination - how could it be different? Now use your strategic thinking. What would have to happen for this situation to be rectified? How hard would it be to change it?

A note about secondary sources: After choosing your topic, write down YOUR OWN IDEAS before you consult secondary sources. When you progress toward consulting secondary sources, try to summarize each source in a couple of sentences, and see whether you agree OR disagree with the secondary source's opinion. When you incorporate the source into your paper, you should name the article title and the author, include a couple of sentences of summary, and a quote. Then—and this is key—you should RESPOND to the source with your own opinion on the author's view. Is the author's view accurate, or not? Why? This is called entering the critical conversation. It's important to respond to any secondary source you're citing because you want your own opinions to direct the paper.

No matter what, remember to AVOID PLAGIARISM. The ideas in your paper should be your own; otherwise, it is not your paper! Any idea gleaned from another source MUST BE CITED.

### **Essay #3 Teach Me About the City** (about 750 Words - 3-4 pages)

If you could plan one class about New York, what would it be? What is important about New York City that we have overlooked so far? The Metropolitan Museum of Art? Saint Anthony's Feast? The Yankees? Brian Lehrer and Community Radio? Pick a New York Subject and Plan a Class on it, including a field trip. Show why this place or experience is vital to the city and to being a true New Yorker. Make it so persuasive (and easy for me to teach) that I am tempted to teach the class, including a field trip.