Essay #2: Definitional Essay
Due: Sunday, Nov. 14th by 11:59pm

A definitional essay is writing that explains what a term means. Some terms have definite, concrete meanings, such as glass, book, or tree. Terms such as honesty, honor, or love are abstract and depend more on a person's point of view.

Three Steps to Effective Definition

1. Tell readers what term is being defined.
2. Present clear and basic information.
3. Use facts, examples, or anecdotes that readers will understand.

Choosing a Definition

Choosing a definition is a key step in writing a definition essay. You need to understand the term before you can define it for others. Read the dictionary, but don't just copy the definition. Explain the term briefly in your own words. Also, it's important to limit your term before you start defining it. For example, you could write forever on the term "love." To limit it, you would write about either "romantic love," "platonic love," or "first love."

Remember: A definition essay is writing that explains what a term means. When writing a definition essay, remember to tell readers what term is being defined, to present a clear and basic definition, and to use facts, examples, or anecdotes that readers will understand.

Possible Definition Essay Topics

- Laziness
- Success
- Marriage
- Family Members
- Real-estate
- Attitude
- Love
- Healthy living
- Vegetarianism

- Masculinity
- Feminism
- Beauty
- Comedy
- Corruption
- Contemporary art
- Agriculture
- Friendship
- Education

- Addiction
- Poverty
- Perseverance
- Good parenting
- Character
- Maturity
- Leadership
- Pride
- Trust

Essay #2: Definitional Essay
Due: Sunday, Nov. 14th by 11:59pm

Essay Instructions

For this paper, you will choose a debatable term that is of interest to you. You will define the term using whatever evidence you determine to be the most compelling and uniquely describe the term you are defining. **Make sure that the definition is your own and that it is not simply a different meaning of a word with multiple interpretations.**

Purpose

To enter into a more expansive conversation about your term, but you must still shape—and make clear to your audience—your more specific purpose. Your goal in this paper is to reflect on and articulate the meaning of a word or term that has some meaning to you. For your reader, the paper should offer a clear sense of what you think the term means, how your thoughts connect to what others think of the term, why and in what context the definition matters.

How you arrange your essay is your choice, but you will want to consider where to place your support. How will you weave together a definition of an abstract term with an attention-grabbing narrative, examples, negation, and other tactics of definition that best explain the concept? **Be sure to have a clear, concise thesis.**

How to Proceed

Once you have decided on your audience, your term, and the support for defining that term, you will then need to go about actually composing a definition.

What you should **NOT** do in this essay is define something the way we already know. Think abstract –things and words that are open to interpretation. Aim for something invigorating and fresh. Make it exciting!

Format

Minimum of 3 pages double spaced (not including the Works Cited page)—MLA format, Times New Roman 12pt font

Minimum of 3 scholarly sources from either the online library database or Google Scholar, or both—**TWO QUOTES PER SOURCE**

Must have a Works Cited page

Essay #2: Definitional Essay
Due: Sunday, Nov. 14th by 11:59pm

Must include **PROPERLY** quoted material from the sources you choose to support your definition

Do NOT use I, me, my, we, us, our, I think, I feel , I believe, In my opinion, In conclusion, My essay will talk about, etc.