

Both the Gary Soto narrative and the Gerstel and Sarkisian essay define, in varying ways, the abstract term ‘family.’ This assignment addresses Course Outcomes 1-5 listed on the syllabus.

Offer your own definition, drawing on an aspect mentioned in one of the essays, by narrating an experience of how you came to that understanding of the term. You do not need to define *all* of what the concept means to you in your essay; in fact, that likely would not be possible! So you will have to *focus* your answer around *an* experience and provide supporting details to illustrate it.

Keep in mind that the assignment asks you to:

- Focus on one experience;
- Provide supporting specifics;
- Make a direct reference to the idea you are drawing on, including the specific reading;
(Though it is not necessary to use a parenthetical citation, you do need to make clear what idea you are integrating into your narrative and which reading it is from)
- Consider what tone you want to convey;
- Use the first person, ‘I’ perspective;
- Organize with paragraph structure in mind;
- Write a final essay of three word-processed pages.

—Format details are listed in the MLA section of *A Writer’s Reference*, beginning on page 424. For those of you who don’t yet have the book, here are the basics:

Double space your text, use a one-inch margin and standard 12 point type.

In the top left corner of the first page, you will have your name first, then Professor Jopp, then ENGL102, with your section number, and on the next line the date. Drop down a space and put in the title. No title page is required. Be sure your pages are numbered.

The Dropbox link will be posted, along with the exact deadline. This is where you will upload your completed essay. Please submit the essay in Word or as a PDF.