

FORMAL ASSESSMENT ONE [3-4 PAGES] | IRRITATING AND SOOTHING WORDS
DUE DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 BEFORE 11:50 PM | POINT VALUE: 035/500

- 1. FONT:** Times New Roman **or** Garamond / **Size:** 11 or 12.
- 2. FORMAT AND PAGE LAYOUT:** See document entitled “How Your Paper Ought to Look.”
- 3. ~~WORKS CITED:~~** ~~Mandatory and SEPARATE from assigned pages. In other words, if you are writing a two-paged paper, your works cited page would be page three.~~

FOR THIS ASSESSMENT, PLEASE TRY TO AVOID USING SOURCE MATERIAL.

- 4. ORGANIZATION:** Regardless of how you approach this assessment, you should keep in mind that any essay you write should consist of three straightforward things: [1] a beginning, [2] a middle, and [3] an end.

And—as a reminder—this assessment is diagnostic. Do your best. Be thorough. And embrace any point-of-view. First-person, second-person, or third-person all work. Just make sure you’re consistent.

- 5. GRAMMAR/SPELLING:** No excuses. At this point, you should know the fundamentals of grammar and spelling. Remember, word documents only catch *some* errors.

6. PROMPT:

Taking a personal inventory is usually a mental health exercise. Mental health professionals commonly recommend them when a person is adopting (or at least considering the potential benefits of) major change in one’s life. The process is meant to expose some underlining trend(s) in behavior and/or tendency, and once negative and/or positive trends are “out in the open,” that person might be sufficiently equipped to take steps forward.

For our first formal assessment, I’d like you to take a person inventory; however, I’d like you solely discuss how certain words register within you. I’d like you to choose ten words in the English language. Five words that you find exceptionally soothing—and five words you find exceptionally irritating.

Your job is to discuss these ten words in essay form and essentially argue why they’re appealing/unappealing to you. In the interest of transparency, this paper is partially intended to be diagnostic; in other words, I’m interested in gauging your ability and style, and also, this sort of paper will help me get to know you. I want to keep these directions intentionally vague so you’re able to tackle the assessment in your own way.

Use the two documents attached to Moodle to guide your writing. One is entitled “How Your Paper Ought to Look,” and that document should—predictably—dictate the formatting. Pay attention to the details for full credit. The second document is entitled “Grade Sheet/Checklist,” and this document is essentially fixed for all essays; however, many of the items are inapplicable, and you’ll notice they have an “N/A” next to them. Don’t emphasize this one too much, though, because—as stated—this paper is diagnostic and personal, and I won’t be looking for things like thesis statement support or adherence to style guides. Just do your best, take it seriously, and you’ll get full credit—particularly if you embrace the “How Your Paper Ought to Look” document.