

Ashland English 101 Essay #2

Explanation (Expository) Essay

Before You Begin

Read Daniel Bekai's "Growing Up Alone." This is a good example of a "what it means to be me" essay, and it will help you, especially if you are writing option #1. You should also pay attention to the tone, word choice, and general feeling of his essay.

Your Writing Task

Choose one (and only one) of the topics below:

1. After reading Tadeu Velloso's "Brown" (*America Now*, p. 229), consider the question "What are you?" How would you answer this question? Try to craft a personal narrative about what (not who) you are, modeling your response after Velloso's.
2. Ask the question that Matthew Bulger (*America Now*, p. 235) asked: What makes an American? Compare your answer to the answer offered by J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur (p. 238). Has the answer changed between 1782 and today? How has it changed and how has it not?

Mechanical Details

Length: Three pages (at least 950 words)

Format: Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1" margin all around, MLA header.)

Submitting the paper:

- The English Department wants electronic copies of all your essays this semester, so please upload the final product to the drop box in Blackboard. Some students (especially those who use Google Docs) have trouble figuring out how to do this, so ask if you are uncertain how to proceed!
- If you have any trouble getting the Blackboard upload to work, simply print a copy and bring it to class.

Due Date

- **Final copy:** Friday, February 8, 2019

This essay is worth 75 points.