

Final Analytical Essay (110 pts.)
Reading 104

You will write a 2-4 page essay about two texts from Rereading America. You will summarize both texts; compare and contrast the arguments in each text; declare which argument you agree with more; and why you agree with it and disagree with the other argument. *This essay will be typed, double-spaced, and in essay form.* This is not a writing class, and I will not be grading you on your writing ability; however, we will be discussing how to organize and write this type of essay.

1. Choose two texts from Rereading America. These two texts should be about the same topic, and they should be arguing against each other in some way. Possibilities include:
 - “Idiot Nation” versus “America the Beautiful”
 - “America the Beautiful versus “Oblivious Empire”
 - “It Takes a Family” versus “What Is Marriage?”
 - “The Lesson” versus “Ragged Dick”
 - “Two Ways a Woman Can Get Hurt” versus “Mirror, Mirror: Are Muscular Men the Best of All?”
 - “The Pressure to Cover” versus “Veiled Intentions”
 - “Afraid of Ourselves” versus “Reason in Exile”
2. Summarize each text. What is the author’s argument (thesis) and how does the author support it?
3. Compare and contrast the 2 authors’ arguments. How are they similar? How are they different?
4. Write your opinion. Which author do you agree with and why? Why do you disagree with the other author? Or do you agree and disagree with parts of each author’s argument?
5. Your essay will include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. The introduction will explain which texts you are writing about, what the arguments are, and your thesis (which argument you agree with and why). The body will summarize the texts, compare and contrast them, and explain why you agree or disagree with the arguments. The conclusion will wrap it up.
6. You will work with a group to help you revise the rough draft of your essay. You will need to bring three copies of your draft on the day it’s due. You will receive ten points for this activity. You will also have an opportunity to have me read your essay if you would like.
7. Your final draft will be graded on its completeness, critical thinking, clarity of ideas, and organization.