

English 1020E – Section 003 Essay 1 Guidelines

Your first, brief essay is, it is important to note, *an essay*: it must comply in most substantive regards with the expectations laid out for (non-research) essays in the *Essay Guidelines for Students* document also found on this web syllabus. Please consult this document.

However, because of the brevity of this particular essay, certain elements are less important than they are in a full- or medium-length essay. In particular, your approach to the following features of an essay should be modified for this purposes of this assignment:

Introduction: Your introduction to this short essay should not consist of more than a sentence or two that announces your general themes and, perhaps, approach. These can be in a separate (short) paragraph, or prefixed to your first paragraph featuring argumentation and analysis. (Similarly, a “hook” is probably unnecessary.”

Conclusion: As with the Introduction above, this should be no more than one or two sentences that very briefly sum up (without simply restating) the central point(s) of your analysis. Again, this may be a separate short paragraph, or may be affixed to the end of your last paragraph, depending upon which seems more logical or “natural.”

Thesis and Thesis Statement: A formal thesis is unnecessary for a brief analysis of this nature. That said, your short essay *should* be making an overall point about the work you analyzing, and not simply consist of a series of random observations about it. An example might be an analysis that shows evidence that a work is, say, misogynist, or that shows how its satire functions, and to what end. The “Thesis Statement,” such as it is, should be incorporated into your brief Introduction.

Apparatus: For the purpose of this assignment, you do *not* need to include a bibliography or citations. Focus instead upon your analysis.

In most other regards, your brief essay should conform to the stylistic, formal, and analytical standards set out in *Essay Guidelines for Students* (remembering, again, that this is not a research essay, and that you are therefore not required to consult secondary sources or provide citations.)