

Unit 1: Essay 1 (500 words, 100 pts.)
Essay w/ draft and research for peer review: Tues., Sept. 6.
Final version: Thurs., Sept. 8

You will write a short, argumentative essay examining one of the arguments made about whether or not to settle for a partner in marriage. You may choose to argue in support of Lori Gottlieb's article, "Marry Him! The Case for Settling for Mr. Good Enough," or you may choose instead to argue in support of Leigh Anderson's article, "Six Years Ago I Settled for 'Mr. Good Enough.' This is What Happened."



One of these articles will support your argument and one will support your counter-argument. While your 500-word essay should include a thesis that takes a stand within the first few paragraphs, it also should include a counter-argument later on in the essay. You also will cite a passage from the first chapter of *Economics of the Undead* to support your argument. You may use brief citations from these sources, with each citation only one complete sentence. Additional sources can't be used.

Part of the challenge of this essay is its short length: You have a limited number of words to make your argument and connect this to an opposing viewpoint that you explore before coming back to your thesis. Do not repeat the question. Instead, use the HIT formula and start with a creative beginning. We encourage creative beginnings that take an innovative approach to your topic.

Students should read both articles carefully and select the passages you wish to use before deciding a thesis. Keep an open mind since it is the research or passages that you select, and not your personal opinion, which determines a thesis or argument in an academic paper.

Draft: You are required to write at least one complete draft of your essay that shows substantial corrections you have made on it as a result of editing and proofing. Your draft can be handwritten or typed. Your revised version should be typed in 12-pt. Times in MLA format. It should include an original title and a Works Cited page as part of the document. For both due dates, the revised draft(s) and final version should be turned in together in an envelope at the start of class. Following peer review, the final version should be submitted to Turnitin by 12:30 p.m. on the date due. Late work loses points (refer to late work policies in Class Guidelines).

In-text citations: You should use only one citation per source, for a total of three brief citations. One citation should be a paraphrase and the other two citations should be quotes. Introduce your source by title and author with a signal phrase that explains what the reading is about before you quote or paraphrase from it. Quotes and paraphrases should be used in context for accuracy. When you do quote or paraphrase, each citation should be no longer than one sentence.

Using only quotes, using fewer or more citations, not using signal phrases, or using citations longer than a brief sentence will cost you points since most of your paper should reflect your thinking and analysis.

Required research that you turn in with drafts and the paper:

From *Economics of the Undead*:

- 1) A photocopy of the page you wish to cite with the passage highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.

From "Marry Him! The Case for Settling":

- 1) A photocopy of the page you wish to cite with the passage highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.

From "Six Years Ago I Settled for 'Mr. Good Enough.' This is What Happened":

- 1) A photocopy of the page you wish to cite with the passage highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.

Peer Review: You will have the chance to revise your essay following peer review of your research and essay before turning it in to us and to Turnitin. For peer review, please bring the corrected draft of your essay, a typed copy of your revised essay, and the required research in a large envelope.

Length: Essays that exceed 550 words or are less than 500 words, not counting the Works Cited page, lose points. Please include a word count at the end of your essay that does not include the Works Cited entries.

MLA: Refer to a spring 2016 MLA guide or the links on the class website for in-text citation and Works Cited examples.

Plagiarism: Essays with plagiarism may result in a failing grade on the assignment and being reported to BC administration.

Unit 1: Paper 1 (1,500 words, 300 pts.)

Paper w/ draft and research for peer review: Tues., Sept. 27.

Final version: Thurs., Sept. 29.



You will write a 1,500-word argumentative paper discussing marriage trends and families in the United States. It is up to you to select your own topic and come up with an argument about it that is supported by research. You can't write on the same topic that you chose for your essay; your essay and paper topics must differ and use different sources.

As part of your paper, you will be required to include a guest speaker presentation on child support guidelines scheduled in our class for Thurs., Sept. 15. Veronica Munoz, a child support officer from the Kern County Department of Child Support Services, will explain the state formula for deciding child support payments and her department's role in the court system. The most challenging part of this assignment is thinking about possible connections between her presentation on child support guidelines, marriage trends, and research from scholarly sources found in the BC library.

This paper will have a total of five sources: two scholarly peer-reviewed sources that you have found through the Bakersfield College library; one citation from Veronica Munoz's presentation; and two other sources that you choose from the class readings.

While your paper should include a thesis that takes a stand within the first few paragraphs, it also should include a counter-argument that reflects critical thinking. Try to go beyond the obvious when you consider possible connections. Use the HIT formula and start with a creative beginning, since we encourage creative beginnings that take an innovative approach to your topic.

Ms. Munoz's presentation may fit in beautifully with the library research you find, or it may present you with the critical thinking challenge of connecting disparate pieces of information about the institution of marriage. Her comments are the first step in your research, so take complete notes and ask questions. Write down direct quotes if possible so you can quote her in your paper. You will turn in your notes from her talk with the paper.

Besides our guest speaker, your sources will include two scholarly research sources from the BC library and two assigned readings for this class. The best way to approach this paper is to carefully review your notes from the presentation, readings, and class discussion and write down possible ideas, connections, and counter-arguments before heading to the library. Consider key words to search for as you look for scholarly articles.

You should find the library research and select the readings carefully before deciding your topic and thesis. Keep an open mind since it is the research or passages that you select, and not your personal opinion, which determines a thesis or argument in an academic paper.

You should discuss sources as examples that briefly illustrate your thesis and counter-argument. While a brief

summation may be needed, citing only key ideas avoids restating all the facts you have read.

For your BC library research, the two scholarly sources may include a scholarly peer-reviewed article found through the library's online databases, a specialized encyclopedia, a book, a book on reserve, or an e-book. You should not use articles (even ones that appear in peer-reviewed journals) that are opinion pieces without bibliographic references at the end, such as a first-person column or story, an unsigned editorial, a letter to the editor, or a book or movie review. Your scholarly peer-reviewed source must come from the BC library; sources found elsewhere are not acceptable.

Required research that you turn in with drafts and the paper:

For each of the two BC library scholarly sources:

- 1) A copy of the first page and relevant pages of each article or source with the passages you are citing highlighted so we can find these easily. Each source should have only one passage highlighted.
- 2) The citation of your source as printed from the BC library's database. Please note that this is not the MLA citation, but the bibliographic information for your source as it appears in the library. (By the way, some of the suggested MLA formats found at the end of online articles are incorrect. Double-check your MLA format using your guides.)

From Veronica Munoz's presentation:

- 1) A photocopy of all notes you took of her presentation with the section you intend to use highlighted so we can find the paraphrase or quote easily.

From two other sources you choose from the assigned readings:

- 1) You should turn in a copy of the relevant pages of each assigned reading with the passage highlighted so we can find your paraphrase or quote easily.

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