

Eng 53 Final Exam Instructions:

To prepare for your Final Exam on 8 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 10, you want to read the article carefully and come up with a HIT formula (Hook, Information, and Thesis) that grabs the reader's attention, explains the issue clearly by introducing the article and explaining it briefly, and then states a thesis to support it (see example next page).

You can write all over the article and highlight key ideas, but you can't bring in a prewritten essay to class.

This 350-word essay assignment helps me assess your writing. You will not be graded on your opinion, but on how well you argue it as you follow the guidelines below. All electronic devices should be shut off during this assignment.

Essay guidelines:

- 1) Read the article carefully and underline key ideas. Read the question posed and think of your own arguments to answer it.
- 2) Once you begin to write, write in ink and skip every other line on your paper. If you make a mistake, neatly cross it out or use Whiteout.
- 3) You can quote the article only twice, quoting no more than a sentence, to support your viewpoint. Be sure to attribute the quote to the speaker and to the story.
- 4) You can briefly explain the issue in your own words and attribute the facts to the article, but most of your essay should be your ideas. (Simply restating the story reflects little thinking of your own.)
- 5) You should write in legible handwriting that uses upper or lower case letters.
- 6) Count the words on each page and write this number on the bottom of each page. Write the total word count on the top of the first page. You should write only 325-350 words.
- 7) Turn in the article, any scratch paper you used, and your essay by the end of class.

Writing tips:

- Do not waste words restating the question. Instead, try a creative beginning that leads to your introduction of the article (include author, title, date, and publication) and explain the article's main idea in a sentence or two after that. Your thesis or argument that answers the question should be clearly stated by the end of your first few paragraphs.
- Most of the essay should be your thinking and not just restating the ideas in the story. Develop the essay with description, examples, and details.
- Write in third person (no "you," "your," "me" "myself," "we," or "I") for most of your essay. You can cite a personal example to make a point, but keep it brief, returning to writing about the larger issue.
- Proofread your essay after you've written it. Double-check names, spelling of words against those in the story, direct quotes, and key facts.

Refer to the HIT formula example below as a reminder about how to start this essay.

HIT Formula:

Hook: A creative beginning that hooks the reader’s attention.

Information: Introduce the issue, author, and article with a sentence or two explaining what it is about generally. This is an objective statement that includes both sides of the issue. This is also called a **signal phrase**.

Thesis: An argument or stand that addresses the issue or question.

Worried your loved one might be cheating? Thanks to technology and a new court ruling, you now can find out. (**Hook**)

In an article titled, “Judges Rule Using GPS to Track a Cheating Spouse Does Not Invade Privacy” by Mary Ann Spoto, New Jersey appellate judges ruled placing a GPS tracking device in a couple’s car for the purpose of tracking a cheating husband is legal and does not invade the husband’s privacy. The article summarizes the case of Kenneth Villanova, a Gloucester County sheriff’s officer, who sued a private investigator because he instructed Villanova’s wife to install the device in the couple’s car. (**Information**)

Tracking someone with a GPS device is not an invasion of privacy because the person is in public and can easily be seen by anyone. (**Thesis**) Because of this, anything people do in public could be public knowledge. If a murderer is seen fleeing the scene of a crime, he can’t accuse witnesses of invading his or her privacy at trial just because they testified to seeing him leave. Similarly, a cheating spouse shouldn’t cry foul because he or she is caught in a public place.

In the article, Appellate Judge Ann Lisa noted that the device spied on Villanova only in public places. “There is no direct evidence in this record to establish that during the approximately 40 days the GPS was in the... glove compartment the device captured a movement of plaintiff into a secluded location that was not in public view” (B3). Villanova’s mistake was cheating in public, where anyone, and any tracking device, could spot him. If he had been more careful about where he cheated, he may have had a case that his privacy had been invaded.