

ENG 1113: The Illustrative Essay

Changing Social Attitudes

DUE



Typed draft due Saturday,
November 21

READINGS



- Barbara Kingsolver, "Somebody's Baby"
- Paul Roberts, "How to Say Nothing in 500 Words"

LENGTH

Two pages in length (@600 words),
though it can be up to 3 pages long.

**THIS ASSIGNMENT IS
WORTH 100 POINTS**

ADDITIONAL



You may make an appointment with me (or email me) at any phase of your assignment to discuss any ideas or problems you may be having. I am more than willing to look at drafts at any stage of development. Please consult the information in your syllabus about scheduling appointments in order to do so. You may also schedule an appointment in SSC's Student Success Center with a writing tutor to gain valuable feedback on your draft.

Remember:

Ideas taken from the readings must be incorporated according to the rules of M.L.A., which your *QA Compact* clearly addresses.

GUIDELINES

Prompt: Identify an attitude or issue that you wish to change, like Barbara Kingsolver's discussion of how American's tend to treat children. Think of behavior you have observed or experienced that you find unacceptable, perhaps even outrageous. Why is it so and why should we care that people have this attitude? Like Kingsolver, give us plenty of specific examples and details of this attitude and how you or someone else felt about being on the receiving end of it.

Try to find a unique way of approaching this. There are a handful of obvious, pat answers that would result in a passing essay. However, if you want a better chance at an A or B grade, you must find something new to say or place the topic within a different context than we expect.

- Follow page format guidelines as described in your syllabus. You may assume that your **audience** for this assignment consists of **intelligent, college-level readers**.
- Before you leave class, I must see a draft of your essay. Should you run out of time, I need to see, at the very least, an outline of your essay that includes: Thesis statement; Topic sentences in the order they will appear in your essay; Identification of audience; Statement of purpose and what you want your reader to come away with; A sketch of your introduction – how do you plan on getting your audience's attention and what background information will you present that leads to the thesis.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

The essay should have a minimum of 3 body paragraphs. You must support your position with at least three well-developed and well-supported claims. These main discussion points will become the topics of your body. In your thesis statement, you must make your position clear with a clearly defined subject and attitude.

Following a strict, academic format, your essay outline may look like this:

- Introduction: Open with an attention getter, provide context for this discussion (why is it important?), and state thesis. Target a specific audience. Discuss, define, explain what the attitude is that you want to change and why it needs fixing
- Body Paragraph 1: Present first supporting evidence and follow it with specific details to illustrate your point
- Body Paragraphs 2 & 3: Repeat pattern of paragraph 1
- Conclusion: Restatement of thesis, provide big picture comments – why this is important, how can the reader benefit, etc. In the conclusion, drive home the importance of acting or the consequences of not acting.