

Essay #2

Your job is to write a letter to an author or character in the persona or voice of another. The texts or authors you choose should be ones we studied this semester—unless you get approval from me to choose another. Your letter must do the following (though how and where is up to you):

1. Reflect an intriguing connection between at least two texts.
2. Demonstrate a strong sense of the voice and preoccupations of the writer you imitate.
3. Include a reason the writer you imitate wants to communicate with the other writer.
4. Quote and reflect on at least two texts.
5. Include intellectual and emotional responses you think the writer would have in response to the works, life, or reputation of the one addressed.
6. Comment on questions about literary history, the influence of texts on each other, and the relationship between writers and very specific cultural or historical events, institutions, or attitudes.
7. Some attention to literary form—either in theoretical terms or focused on formal strategies of particular works. â

Advice

- Your letter should be about 1,000 words in length.
- The scenario for your letter need not be realistic. For example, Emily Dickinson might write to Margaret Atwood or Paul Beatty's *Sellout* might write to Mary Shelley or William Shakespeare.
- Aim to be inventive.
- Spend some time brainstorming and playing with ideas before you settle on a topic.
- Save plenty of time for revising.

Formatting Guidelines

Your essay should be double-spaced, with 1" margins, using a standard 12-point font. Be sure to number your pages and give the essay a title. Include your name, the date, and the course number and title in the upper left corner. Use MLA guidelines for citations (see link on our course website) and for your Works Cited page.

Due Dates

Draft Tuesday, May 15 (in class, two hard copies)
Revision Tuesday, May 22 (to me, via email)