College Writing Seminar – Summer Intake Essay Assignment

This essay assignment must be emailed to CWS@juniata.edu within one week following your summer orientation**.

Deadlines by Orientation:
Orientation #1 (June 10-11): 5pm, June 18th
Orientation #2 (June 12-13): 5pm, June 20th
Orientation #3 (June 17-18): 5pm, June 25th
Orientation #4 (June 19-20): 5pm, June 27th
August Orientation (Aug. 18-19): 5pm, July 11th
**August Orientation students will submit their essay before their orientation.

Carefully read this page before beginning this reading and writing assignment.

We will use your essay to recommend placement in an appropriate section of the College Writing Seminar (CWS). You should write this essay on your own with no assistance, no editor, no proofreading by your parents. And parents, if you are reading this, you should know that your “help” could hurt your student. So, please refrain.

Your task is to complete this assignment independently using only the sources provided. As a Juniata student, we expect you to uphold our commitment to academic honesty.

We want you to write this away from orientation so that it will best mirror your own writing process and so that you can compose an essay similar to what you would produce for a high school or entry-level college class.

Don’t spend an extravagant amount of time on this essay. Just read the materials, consider the prompt, and begin your writing process. Do take time to revise and proofread.

Submission Process
1. Please use your Juniata email account to submit your essay.

2. After you write, revise, and proofread your essay, copy the text into the body of your email. Check to see that it is properly formatted. Do not attach a file.

3. In the subject line of the email, please put ONLY your last name, first name. Example: Subject: Smith, Gregory

4. Email your completed essay to CWS@juniata.edu within a week following your summer orientation.

Questions? Can’t meet the deadline?
Please contact Steve Ankney in Academic Support at 814-641-3405 or ankneys@juniata.edu.
Assignment

Select ONE topic from the two choices below and read the corresponding articles.

Read thoroughly and then read again. Analyze the viewpoints expressed in the articles and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. Consider what specifically about that argument is most persuasive to you.

Write a 500-750 word essay explaining your own position on this topic. Focus on taking a clear stand on the issue and providing logical support. You may write from an “I” perspective if you wish and use personal experience if appropriate. You may quote from any of the articles and should refer to at least one article in your essay. Be sure to cite anything you quote or paraphrase using the citation style of which you are most familiar.

Topic#1 – Lying: Socially Required or Unnecessary Evil?

Think about how lying works in society and in your own life. Does lying make you more sophisticated? Kinder? If you never lie, does that make you someone who flounders in social situations?

Read the following articles and write an essay explaining why YOU THINK lying is a social requirement, an unnecessary evil, or something in between.

https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/compassion-matters/201309/why-we-lie-and-how-stop


Topic #2 – Shakespeare: Then and Now

In our summer read, *Station Eleven* by Emily St. John Mandel, the writer explores several different aspects of life in a post-apocalyptic world. Two of the most prominent topics are our dependence upon electricity and what endures as culture. Since the novel centers around a travelling troupe of actors and musicians, the reader can assume that acting and music are critical elements of cultural survival.

Of the top ten most common reads for high school students in the United States, 4-5 of them are always Shakespeare plays. Considering that Shakespeare was writing five hundred years ago, what makes his works relevant today?

Please read the articles below and consider your own academic exposure to Shakespearean drama. How much emphasis was placed on Shakespeare in your high school curriculum? Did you find those choices to be effective or ineffective? How did you respond to reading or viewing Shakespeare? Why do you think Shakespeare’s writings endure as a foundational element in our education system?

http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/news/editorial/story.html?id=0c8ab9bc-e9d0-4339-adbb-1d3cef5c62a6

