

# The Basics of the Short Essay + First Class Review

9/13/22

Eng 101 - Hardwick

# From Yesterday

- Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken."
  - Meaning is made retroactively.
- We practiced forming arguments, defining terms, and word choice.
- We wrote the start of your jungle poems.
- Hand in your assignment.
- My office hours will be on Monday evenings in room 205.



# Websites We Discussed

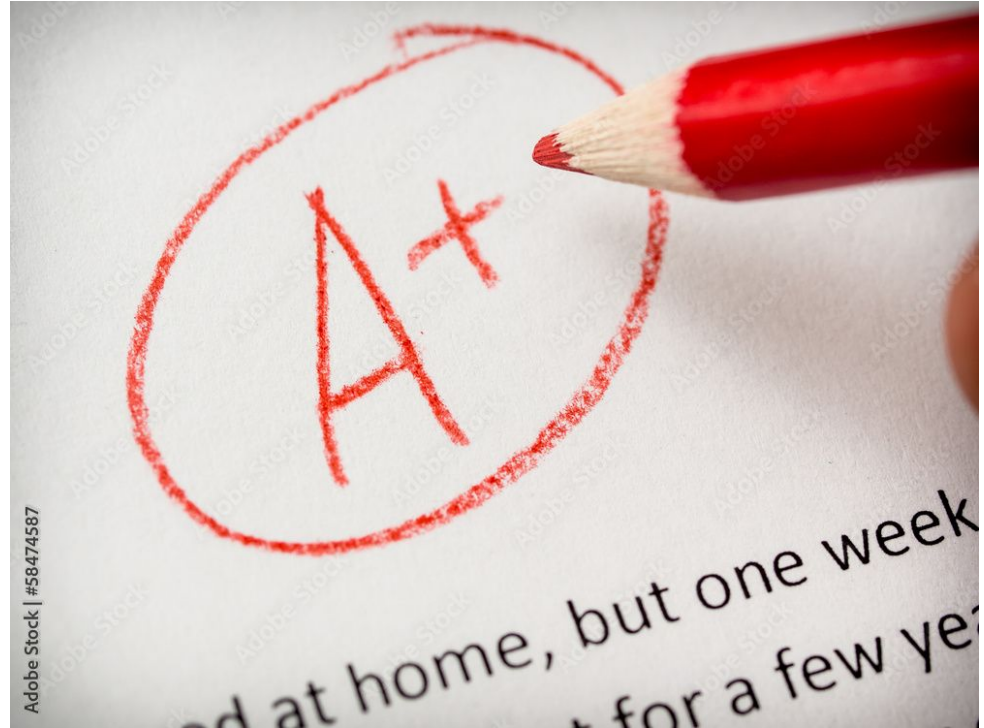
- JSTOR - Humanities
  - <https://www.jstor.org/>
- Archive.Org - Non-Profit Digital Library
  - <https://archive.org/>

# Free Writing

- We learned reducing the soup.
  - Write for 5 minutes.
  - Take a phrase from your writing and use that as a prompt.
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  - Take a phrase from your writing and use that as a prompt.

# How To Write an Essay

- **Selecting a Subject**
  - Interest
  - Argument
- **Structuring Your Argument**
  - Thesis & Introductions
  - Body Paragraphs
  - Conclusion
- **That Extra Polish**
  - Transitions
  - Critical Thinking
  - Clear Writing
  - Word Choice
  - Knowing Your Audience and Style



# Selecting a Subject

- Choose something interesting to you!
  - Did something stand out to you?
  - Love it? Hate it? Confused? Start there!
  - Start big and don't worry about your thesis yet.
- Narrow it down through research and study.
  - Ask questions about the subject.
  - Research how others have talked about it.
  - Form your own opinion.
  - Free writing and outlining as practice.

# Free Writing Exercises in Your Book

1. Listing
2. Classic Freewriting
3. Looping (reduce the soup)
4. Boomeranging - We will do this today!

# Boomeranging Prompts

1. Studying nursing is practical in today's world.
  - a. 5 minutes
2. Studying nursing is enjoyable for me,
  - a. 5 minutes
3. Studying nursing isn't enjoyable for me.



# The Parts of An Essay

- Introduction - Establishes the thesis of your essay and provides context for why it is important and how you will present evidence.
- Thesis - The core argument you are making.
  - Chapter 2
- Body Paragraphs - Establishes evidence for your argument and preempts counterarguments.
  - Chapter 3
- Conclusion - Summarizes your argument, reminds readers what your thesis was, and suggests further courses of action.
  - Chapter 4
- RETURN BY 1:02
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# Page 32 Of Steps to Writing Well - Strong Thesis

- Establishes the writer's opinion .
- Asserts one main idea.
- Has something worthwhile to say.
- Is limited to fit the assignment.
- Is clearly stated in specific
- Is recognized as the main idea and is often in the first or second paragraph.

# What to Avoid in a Thesis Statement

- Don't merely announce your subject matter.
- Don't be timid/clutter your thesis.
- Don't make irrational or oversimplified claims.
- Don't merely state a fact.
- Don't express your thesis in the form of a question.

## Examples of strong thesis statements.

- My pet boa constrictor, Sir Pent, was a much better bodyguard than my dog, Fang.
- Chemistry majors should be exempt from the foreign-language requirement.

# That Extra Polish

- Transitions
- Critical Thinking
- Clear Writing
- Word Choice
- Knowing Your Audience and Style

# Homework Due by Noon Thursday

I will have the registrar send you a google form to submit your homework through.

Your assignment will be to write one page about how free writing the past two days in class has been for you.

- Size 12 times new roman, double-spaced
- There will be a field for your name and a separate field for the body of the assignment.

I will also have a link to the power point from today in the email.