

The Emotional Essay

Mr. Scirocco
English 122
American Literature

Assignment:

There are 2 parts to this assignment: (1) emotion paper; (2) oral presentation

For this paper, we will be embarking on a semi-research style, individualized quest. Each student will be choosing an emotion (i.e., joy, sorrow, fear, anger, love, sadness, etc.) and tracing that emotion through 4 modes of communication or genres. These modes include literature (drama, short story, novel), film, music/poetry, and art. In your paper, you will define the particular emotion you choose, explain why you chose that emotion, and relate how each piece portrays and illustrates this emotion; and in turn, how our society or a particular culture receives and responds to this emotion. The pieces do not have to directly relate to one another; however, you will have to make transitions as you move from one genre (work) to another. The emotion will be the underlying force of your paper. What conclusions can be drawn from how literature, the arts, and popular culture portray your specific emotion?

Timeline and other details:

Your emotion/topic is due to me for approval on January 23rd. You should start your hunt immediately. I will try to provide some library time, but that is not guaranteed. Once you get settled with your particular emotion, begin thinking about possible pieces that may work with your emotion. **The final paper and reflection letter are due to me on February 18.** Late penalty is 10 points per school day.

Presentation:

In addition to your paper, each individual will make an oral presentation on your emotion and your findings. The presentation will be 5-7 minutes in length. This is where you will want to share excerpts from some of your genre choices. You may invite audience participation, do a dramatic presentation, a multi-media presentation—whatever you feel works best for your particular emotion and your findings. The presentation will count as a test grade.

Presentations will most likely begin on February 20 and continue through February 27.

Grading criteria and specifics:

You may use first person. You may NOT use second person (you). Your paper will count as one test grade. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. Your paper will roughly be about seven paragraphs: one for each genre or mode, an introduction, and a conclusion. Yes, you will need a thesis, and your conclusion will need to be very strong as well. If you would like to break the paper down further, you may certainly do so, i.e. a paragraph on a piece (a short summary and/or explanation) followed by another paragraph on the emotion and how it is presented and portrayed. We will be discussing your thesis more in class. You should also be prepared to use internal citations or quotations from your works. At the conclusion of your project and presentation, you will be responsible for turning in a reflective evaluation of your work

You will be graded on the following:

Introduction/Thesis:	10 points
4 Modes of Communication: (Explanation of piece and how emotion is portrayed):	12 points
Conclusion: (conclusions drawn & relate back to thesis):	10 points
Mechanics/Usage	20 points

Enjoy your hunt! Your pieces may come from a variety of time periods, authors, and cultures--as we are in a World Literature class. You will need to turn in copies of your works, particularly the shorter pieces like song lyrics, poems, and short stories; we can discuss this on an individual basis. Remember, you should be prepared to use direct quotations to support your analysis.

Reflection Letter

After completing your emotion paper, please reflect about the following questions and respond to them in letter form, to be submitted to me with your emotion paper.

- How did you decide upon your emotion for your paper? What made you choose that particular emotion?
- How did you experience finding selections or pieces for your paper? Was it difficult to find them or relatively easy?
- How did you experience the writing of your paper? How challenging or easy was it to write your final product?
- Rate your final draft on a score of 1-5, one being the lowest. Why did you give yourself this score?
- Identify one to two particular strengths of your paper. Identify one to two areas that you wish you had worked harder on, or weaknesses of your paper.
- Finally, feel free to comment on any other aspect of this project that has not already been addressed. Did you like the paper/presentation idea? What suggestions would you give me if I do it again in the future?