

## The “Emotional” Essay

Mr. Scirocco

### 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 at least 4 modes of communication or genres. These options can include poetry, drama, short story, novel, film, music, 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 February 6th. 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 is due on February 23.** 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 15th and continue through February 17th.

## **Grading criteria and specifics:**

You may use first person. You may NOT use second person (you). Your paper will count as a major essay/project grade. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. Your paper will roughly be about 6 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. (MLA format)

## **You will be graded on the following:**

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| Introduction/Thesis:  | 10 points |
| 4 Modes of Communication: (Explanation of piece and<br>how emotion is portrayed): | 15 points |
| Conclusion: (conclusions drawn & relate back to thesis):                          | 10 points |
| Mechanics:  | 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.