

Professor Ula

Fall 2021

Final Exam Essay Option #1

Essay Option #1 is based on the four news articles located in the Final Exam module on CANVAS: 1. [“Author Alice Sebold Apologizes to Man Cleared in 1981 Rape”](#) (Associated Press), 2. [“Alice Sebold Apologizes to Man Cleared of her Rape”](#) (BBC News), 3. [“How an Innocent Black Man Served Time for the Rape of Author Alice Sebold”](#) (The Guardian), & 4. [“Man is Exonerated in Rape Case Involving Author Alice Sebold”](#) (NY Times).

Consider all of the rhetorical and literary concepts we have covered in class this semester:

- Identifying Author’s Intended Audience
- Counterargument
- Aristotelian Rhetoric: Ethos, Logos, Pathos
- Types of Claims – Fact, Definition, Policy, Cause & Effect, Value

How do these four articles from various different news agencies use these specific rhetorical tools to manipulate the information they are sharing with the world? How does the use of rhetoric affect the ways in which readers will view the two sides of this story? In other words, are the articles designed to make the readers sympathize more with Anthony Broadwater or Alice Sebold? Who is presented in a more positive light and why?

Write a 5-to-7-page essay in which you discuss the various ways in which these four articles employ rhetoric to present specific information or facts that are designed to manipulate their target audience into sympathizing more with either Anthony Broadwater or Alice Sebold. Your essay must conform to MLA Guidelines and should contain the following:

Introduction:

- Hook
- Introduction of texts and authors
- Thesis statement that presents an argument that demonstrates how these new articles employ various rhetorical devices to present information that manipulates the reader into sympathizing more with either Anthony Broadwater or Alice Sebold.
- Transitional phrase that connects your thesis statement to the topic sentence of your 1st body paragraph.

ALL Body Paragraphs should meet the following guidelines:

- Directly and logically further the main argument of the essay
- Topic Sentence that directly responds to and furthers the argument of the thesis statement
- Brief explanation of the topic of the paragraph
- Introduction of a quotation / evidence
- Quotation / evidence

- Explanation of quotation / evidence
- Brief statement that ties body paragraphs back to the main idea of the thesis statement
- Transitional phrase that introduces the topic of the following paragraph

Conclusion:

- Briefly summarize the main ideas you have discussed in the essay
- Revisit the thesis statement
- Provide a personal anecdote or connection to the texts; some sort of insight you have gained based upon your research and your experience with supporting the argument you are making in this essay

Final Exam Essay Option #2

In her article entitled “[What We Mean When We Say ‘Toxic Masculinity,’](#)” Colleen Clemens writes:

In a culture that equates masculinity with physical power, some men and boys will invariably feel like they are failing at “being a man.” For these particular men and boys, toxic masculinity has created a vacuum in their lives that can be filled through violence: through the abuse of the women and of the children in their care [...]

How is this sentiment reflected in Nick Nolan’s accounts in “The Past and the Furious” and “Growing Up Ken Doll” from No Place Like Home: Coping with the Decline and Death of Toxic Parents? What role does toxic masculinity play in young Nolan’s life, specifically as it applies to his struggles with gender identity and securing healthy models of masculine behaviors as evidenced in the excerpted texts? Is Nolan the only victim of toxic masculinity in these accounts? Who else suffers from the effects of toxic masculinity as evidenced in the narrative? Use direct quotations from the texts to support your argument.

Your essay must be typed according to MLA guideline as a WORD document or PDF and should include the following:

Introduction:

- Hook
- Introduction of texts and authors
- Thesis statement that presents an argument that (1) establishes how the quotation from the Clemens article does nor does not apply to the Nolan readings and (2) identifies the various toxic masculine behaviors present in the Nolan texts and the effects these behaviors have had upon the author.
- Transitional phrase that connects your thesis statement to the topic sentence of your 1st body paragraph.

ALL Body Paragraphs should meet the following guidelines:

- Directly and logically further the main argument of the essay
- Topic Sentence that directly responds to and furthers the argument of the thesis statement
- Brief explanation of the topic of the paragraph
- Introduction of a quotation / evidence
- Quotation / evidence
- Explanation of quotation / evidence
- Brief statement that ties body paragraphs back to the main idea of the thesis statement
- Transitional phrase that introduces the topic of the following paragraph

Conclusion:

- Briefly summarize the main ideas you have discussed in the essay
- Revisit the thesis statement
- Provide a personal anecdote or connection to the texts; some sort of insight you have gained based upon your research and your experience with supporting the argument you are making in this essay