

## Essay II

Your second essay asks you to write a sustained, thesis-based argumentative interpretation that weaves together three perspectives from the divergent material of the course: Richard Rodriguez's "The Achievement of Desire" and Paulo Freire's essay "The Banking Concept of Education," along with your own interpretations of how the two essays fit together. **Your essay is due November 7 at 8:30 am. A formal proposal must be made to me in conference on October 25, 26, 27, or 28. A draft thesis is due in class on October 24. A Rough Draft is due in conference with me on October 31-November 4.** Your essay must reflect a critical, insightful understanding of the texts and issues we've read and discussed this semester. Your essay must directly respond to one of the five prompts below; any essay, no matter how skilled, that fails to respond to the prompt will fail.

1. One area where Freire and Rodriguez seem to differ is on the role of creativity and originality in learning. Write a thoughtful, interpretive, thesis-based essay that argues that in fact Rodriguez and Freire agree on the relationship between imitation and originality in learning to think critically. A poor or second-rate response would de-value imitation in order to prioritize originality; your essay must elevate imitation as a significant component of educational practice, as represented within the writings of Freire and Rodriguez.
2. An easily overlooked component of education is the practice of repetition. Write a thoughtful, interpretive, thesis-based essay that argues for the central importance of repetition in learning to think critically. Your essay must weave together aspects of the educational thoughts of Freire and Rodriguez in order to emphasize this point.
3. One controversial difference between Freire and Rodriguez lies in the importance of an interlocutor. Write a thoughtful, interpretive, thesis-based essay that argues for the emergence of a dialogue with oneself in education, using the writings of Freire and Rodriguez as source materials.
4. It's easy to see a disagreement between Freire and Rodriguez in the area of the world: Freire's student learns to change the world, and Rodriguez's student seems to only come to understand oneself. In a thoughtful, interpretive, thesis-based essay, argue that the two agree on the importance of re-making oneself as the critical component of learning.
5. One critique of Freire's perspective could be that it seems inevitable: after all, if the material contains contradictions, won't all students learn to problem-pose eventually? This *should* be the case, but clearly isn't. In a thesis-based, interpretive, thoughtful essay, argue that Dis-ease or uneasiness in education is one of the most powerful forces in learning, and trace its effects in preventing automatic or natural education.

You must submit a 5 to 7 page essay, of between 1200 and 1800 words. Essays that do not meet the wordcount will receive an F. The essay that you submit should adhere to the standards of college-level essay writing. Your essay should reflect your best work of the semester. As such, you should take care that you proofread it carefully. You should also take care that it is polished and refined, representing a serious attempt to complete the assignment. Any essay that represents shoddy workmanship or a lack of preparation will fail on its face.

You will be graded on three main standards. First of all, you should present an argument that attempts to prove its main point. Secondly, that main point must consist of an idea that generates insightful perspective onto at least one of the texts we've read. Thirdly, the argument must be written in such a way that it is clear, well-ordered, and smoothly constructed. With these in mind, your essay will be judged along three main standards: Strength of Argument, Insightfulness and Sophistication of Main Idea, and Skill of Construction. For more information on standards and guidelines, see the handouts on Argument, Thesis, and Introduction, as well as the grading guidelines handout.

Rhetorical focuses for this essay will include the introduction and successfully using evidence in argumentation.

Late essays will receive an F at best