

Essay #2 Assignment Sheet

Due Date:

- **Monday, Nov. 30th at 9am:** Send essay as an attachment to jcmeloni@gmail.com or julie_meloni@wsu.edu
 - NOTE: If you get your essay done during Thanksgiving Break, SEND IT TO ME when it is finished so you can get it back to you as soon as possible. Comments from this essay will be valuable for the writing portion of your final project.

Introduction:

Through your blogs, I already know that you have engaged with the work of Ha Jin, Jhumpa Lahiri, and (to some extent) James Joyce. At this level we are most interested in your ability to critically engage with texts as well as the critical conversation surrounding these texts, on the way to making your own unique arguments about the works or the surrounding historical and/or cultural environment. You've been doing that throughout the semester, so no worries.

In this essay, you'll be doing the same sort of thing—entering a specific critical conversation and using that as a springboard to (or support for) your own original argument. Before I get to the specific instructions, here is a reminder of the general requirements for this (and other) essays:

- **You absolutely must have a thesis.** This is not a *report*; it's an *analysis supporting an original argument*.
- Support support support support support the claims that you make. Avoid fallacies.
- Cite your sources appropriately using MLA format for in-text parenthetical citation and a works cited page.
- The minimum length of your essay should be 1000-1200 words. Try to stay under 2500 words (a focused argument). If you find yourself writing at the minimum number of words, be sure that you are writing a very specific, focused, and concise essay rather than one that makes lots of general statements or otherwise appears nonspecific and unfocused.

You will be writing on EITHER Ha Jin, Jhumpa Lahiri, or James Joyce. The topic of your writing will come from your engagement with one of the following critical articles:

- Liangyan Ge, "The Tiger-Killing Hero and the Hero-Killing Tiger"
- Judith Caesar, "American Spaces in the Fiction of Jhumpa Lahiri"
- Noelle Brada-Williams, "Reading Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies as a Short Story Cycle"
- Jim Haughey, "Joyce and Trevor's Dubliners: The Legacy of Colonialism"

You can find these articles on the main course web site at <http://www.academicsandbox.com/F09/E373/>

Also at the web site you will find a link to selections from *They Say/I Say*: "As He Himself Puts It" (the art of quoting) and "So What? Who Cares?" (saying why it matters). You do not have to read these, but they are supplementary for those of you who are still sketchy on having an argument and properly using quotations to support that argument.

You will need a password to open these documents. The password is: engl373tc

Instructions:

- Find the main argument of the critical piece you have read.
- Use that argument as support for (or as a naysayer against) an argument of your own.
- Introduce, organize, support, and conclude your argument in the course of your essay.

You may find these instructions somewhat vague. That is necessarily true, as the argument you make will be your own, and you can use these critical pieces as springboards or support in many different ways. You have gone through similar processes in blog posts 1, 2, 5, and 6, although this essay is going to be more formal in its approach and structure.

If you are unsure of your argument or essay outline, you are welcome to email me about them.