

English 1A – Composition
Spring 2007, San José State University
Section 03: TTh 07:30-08:45, DMH 354

Essay #4 (out-of-class, process)

Due Date(s)

- **Tuesday, March 6th:** Be prepared to stand up in class and give a 1-2 minute rundown of the thesis of your essay and some of the highlights of the “process.”
- **Thursday, March 8th:** Bring one copy of your final essay to class. Additionally, **upload your essay to TurnItIn.com before coming to class.** Your essay will be considered **late** if you hand the hard copy to me before uploading the electronic copy to TurnItIn.com.

Instructions

- Refer to the “MLA Document Formatting Guidelines” handout for instructions on creating your essay document. The handout outlines the font type and font size, spacing, and margin requirements, among other information.
- Give a descriptive title to your essay. “Essay #4” and “Option #3” are not descriptive titles!
- **AVOID THE PASSIVE VOICE!** Use **ACTION VERBS** whenever possible.
- Be as detailed as possible.
- Pay close attention to organization! Make sure your essay has an introduction, a clear thesis, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Your essay should at least **1000-1200 words** (3-4 typed pages).
- Select **ONE** of the options from the list below (Option #1 **or** Option #2, **or** Option #3) as the prompt for your process essay.

Option #1

In Marcia Muller’s “Creating a Female Sleuth,” the author discusses her process for developing a character and creating the plot for her first novel. Reflecting on the process Muller went through, write your own process essay explaining how you would create a different kind of character—for example, a villain in a short story or a superhero in a graphic novel and so forth.

Option #2

In the essay “How to Escape from a Bad Date,” four different strategies are presented. Rewrite one of these strategies, replacing the authors’ advice with your own advice. For instance, you might replace the steps for faking an emergency or getting your date to leave. Be sure to write an introduction and a conclusion to ensure your steps—and all their descriptions and possible outcomes—are part of a complete essay.

Option #3

Write an essay explaining a ritual or ceremony performed in a social group, culture, or religion, in which you have taken part. Make sure someone completely unfamiliar with the social group, culture, or religion and the ritual or ceremony understands not only how to perform it, but also understands why it is important.