

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

**Essay #5 (out-of-class compare/contrast)**

**Due Date(s):**

- **Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Bring **THREE** copies of a complete rough draft. Outlines, partial essays, and handwritten pages are unacceptable.
- **Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Bring one copy of your rough draft, all workshop sheets, and one copy of your final essay to class. Additionally, **upload the final version of 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 #5" is not a descriptive title!
- As with all essays, pay close attention to organization. Make sure your essay has an introduction, a clear thesis, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- I **strongly suggest** you discuss your thesis and initial outline with me before you write your final draft, especially if organization was an issue for you in previous graded essays.
- Your essay should be approximately **1000-1200 words** (3-4 typed pages).
- Select **ONE** of the essay options from the list below:

**Option #1**

Write an essay about a relative or friend you have known since you were a child. Consider how your opinion of this person is different now from what it was then, and write an essay detailing the similarities and/or differences. Be sure to indicate which you prefer (and why).

**Option #2**

If you have moved from one town or city to another, you may write an essay comparing and contrasting these two places. Your thesis should clearly indicate whether you are emphasizing similarities or differences, and should also convey your own opinion of the new place compared to the old place. Include similarities and differences to support your thesis.

**Option #3**

How is being a participant in an activity—playing a sport or acting in a play, for example—different from being a spectator in that activity? Write an essay that compares and contrasts these two positions.