

English 1A – Composition
Spring 2007, San José State University
Section 41: MW 07:30-08:45, SH 239

Essay #2 (out-of-class narration)

Due Date(s)

- **Wednesday, February 14th:** 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 #2” and “Option #3” are not descriptive titles!
- Write your essay in the first person (the “I” voice).
- Keep your readers interested in your narration by varying your sentence structure and transition words, and expressing your feelings as you write.
- Use specific details to lend authenticity to your story.
- Pay close attention to organization! Make sure your essay has an introduction, a clear thesis, supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Your essay should be approximately **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 narrative essay.

Option #1

Write about a time when you felt like an outsider in a situation. Be sure to provide details that set the scene for the reader, and discuss the specific circumstances of your situation. How did it make you feel? How did you change because of this experience?

Option #2

Write an account of ONE of these “firsts”: your first date, your first serious argument with your parents, your first experience with violence or danger, your first extended stay away from home, your first encounter with someone from a culture very different than your own, or the your first experience with the serious illness or death of a close friend or relative.

Option #3

In his essay, “Circles,” Ralph Waldo Emerson said: “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” Write about a time when you were faced with a problem or a challenge, and your enthusiasm and personal fortitude carried you to success. Describe the situation, the challenges you faced, and how you relied on yourself and your enthusiasm to get the job done.