

English 112
Dr. Julianne Newmark
Essay One: Definition Argument

Draft Due for Peer Review: Monday, September 19
Final Version Due: Monday, September 26
Required length: four to five pages
Must include a Works Cited page (as an additional page)

Please choose one of the following readings:

Momaday, from *The Way to Rainy Mountain*
Carson, from *Silent Spring*
Leopold, "The Land Ethic"

You will need to create your own definition argument (by this I mean, do not recreate the argument in the essay you've chosen; that author's argument might not be a definition argument) that addresses the issue considered in the essay you've chosen. Please recall the practice definition arguments you crafted in class and refer again to the online handout on definition arguments. Be sure you are defining something, either specifically about an issue discussed within the essay and or about its more general "environmental" focus, the issue it concerns, as something that has changed or not changed since the piece's publication. You are making an equivalency – a definition – and then offering a "because clause" with your reasons for stating what you've stated. Offer this definition and the basic outline of your reasons in your one- or two-sentence thesis, which will conclude the first paragraph.

In this essay, you will need to:

1. Create a claim that will follow the formula of a definition argument: "Something is (or is not) a _____ because it has (or does not have) features a, b, or c." Again, please see the definition argument handout posted online.
2. Think about "what's at stake" (this is a pre-writing exercise). Why should anyone care about your claim?
3. Analyze potential readers (these are pre-writing exercises).
4. Craft an essay that begins by revealing what issue you are discussing and proceeds, at the end of the first paragraph, to a declaration of your definitional claim.
5. Your essay, in the body paragraphs, will include evidence pulled from the essay you've chosen above (which will be your "primary text"). By "evidence," I mean quotes. This evidence can either support or refute your definition.. Be sure all of your quotes have an attributive tag and a proper parenthetical citation.
6. Your essay will need to include "evidence" from (at least) one other source (but not more than three other sources). We will discuss the criteria for this in class.

Please refresh your memory of the criteria for a successful paper, listed on your Response Paper assignment. These hold for this essay as well.