

Assignment #12 ***Due on-line by midnight before and in class at Session 13*****Essay 2 (1300-1500 words/4-5 pages)**

BASIC ASSIGNMENT: Write an essay in which you develop an idea of your own that grows out of our readings. In the process of developing your idea, draw on and reflect on ideas and evidence from at least one of the following writers: Aaron, Levy, Pappano, Gladwell, Lapham or Branch. Further: Use at least one additional reading from our class in your discussion—any of the above, any of our previous readings, our supplemental readings, or *Friday Night Lights*.

In other words, you are to put ideas from writers whose work we've read into a sort of conversation—it's your conversation, you are setting up the framework and key terms—but you're bringing in their voices. You may use one of their ideas as the jumping off point for your essay, or you may start with your own idea—but either way, your essay must develop your own idea. *This essay may be either exploratory or persuasive.*

Your goals:

- To develop an argument that explores, expands on, clarifies, questions and/or challenges other writers' ideas.
- To make your essay as interesting as possible to readers—keeping in mind possible readers outside our class (i.e., explain references to “Menand” or concepts such as “the toy department,” etc.—don't assume your readers know what you're talking about).
- To demonstrate analytic skill; that is, to work with ideas in a way that is thoughtful, accurate, and powerful.
- To write clear, energetic sentences and to link them in paragraphs that unfold in a graceful, dynamic way.
- To shape your essay so that the whole is greater than the parts.

Possible topics:

- Does character matter in sports? How and why?
- Is violence a problem in pro and/or amateur sports? How and why?
- Reflect on the problem of doping in sports.
- Reflect on the problem of concussion in football, at the pro and/or school level.
- Reflect on the issue of how much is spent on Division 1 sports and whether college athletes should be compensated.
- Reflect on any issues of race or gender in pro or amateur sports that interest you.

OPTION 1A: Write your essay in the form of a letter to a (real!) friend

Make it clear in the letter why you are sharing your thoughts on your theme with this particular friend. Develop one main idea in your letter, so that the letter is not just a letter, it's an essay.

NOTE: For all options, you may refer to personal experience and observations as well as books, movies, news items, conversations you've had, etc.

Working with sources:

- Refer to sources in your text, not in parentheses: “According to Lapham, ...” “But as Salazar, quoted by Gladwell, argues...”
- **Do** include page numbers in parentheses, just as a temporary reference.
- You must portray sources' overall purpose and specific ideas accurately.
- Remember that when you are working with other writers' ideas, you must cite when you *paraphrase* as well as when you *quote*.

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21W.015 Writing and Rhetoric: Writing about Sports
Fall 2013

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