

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21W.777 The Science Essay
Spring 2008

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.

Homework #3

Due next class, Th 2/14

ESSAY 1: READING RESPONSE

Write 500 words (2 pages double-spaced) in response to one of our readings thus far. A single sentence, or the subject of one of the readings, or a couple of readings in relation to each other might prompt your musings. Your response can be analytical, persuasive, or exploratory; you may incorporate personal experience, memories, and/or work you've done or hope to do. In other words, let this essay take you where it will. Keep in mind, however, that, as a colleague of mine puts it, "I am not interested in the first thing your printer spits out"—an essay is a shaped piece of writing that takes the reader on a journey, however brief.

Approach this essay as a warm-up that may suggest ideas for you to pursue later in the term. I will grade it, but the grade will count only slightly in your final grade. The primary purpose of the grade will be diagnostic. This essay will not be revised.

NOTE: I am not looking for a literary analysis of one of our readings—rather, I'm looking for reflection on one or more ideas in our readings thus far. Keep in mind, too, that reflection doesn't require certainty—good questions can be as valuable to readers as they are to writers.

Format

Please follow this format for all the essays you write for this class:

Name

Date*

Essay 1: Reading Response (assignment)

K. Boiko (Instructor's name)

1st Draft* (or 2nd Draft, or . . .)

** Remember to change the date and draft number when you revise!*

Title Goes Here in Boldface

- Please use regular size fonts—e.g., 12-point Times Roman
- Double-space.
- Indent each paragraph.
- Do not leave extra space between paragraphs (i.e., do not follow the format I use for assignments).
- For Essay 5 (the long essay) only, use section headings.
- Margins: 1" top and bottom. 1¼" left and right.