

21W.730 Fall 2002
EXPOSITORY WRITING

ESSAY #3: Draft Due: Class #30 - two copies and cover letter.
Revision Due: Class #35 with final portfolio.
Suggested length: 8-10 pages, double-spaced.

The **third essay** is an analytic piece that also calls for some investigative research. This assignment asks you to present a clear and persuasive argument that centers on how you understand a particular social issue and how you identify solutions or strategies that communities (and individuals) might use to address this issue. Remember that a “strategy” or “solution” can be (a) a “small solution”, i.e. an idea or program that may work well in particular kinds of communities or situations or (b) a much broader proposal for social change. This essay draws on the comparative analysis skills of essay #2. However, in this essay, you should devote most of your space to your own argument and address counterargument briefly. Advocacy essays can strongly influence readers and challenge them to understand or define social problems differently and consider various solutions.

One writing challenge in this essay is that of working with multiple sources (academic literature, popular literature, utopian or science-fiction, journalistic sources, etc.) and sustaining your own view while addressing counterargument. When writing this essay, be sure to consider the experts but also look for research sources (academic literature, journalism, or service-learning) that express the voices of those who may be marginalized and largely unheard in society. You may also draw upon the community research from essay #2 (if relevant) or conduct new community research. Be sure to append a bibliography of at least five secondary sources as well as footnotes or endnotes for any citations within the text. For citation styles, please consult *Easy Writer*.

The revision of the third essay will be due on the last day of classes (class #35) with the final portfolio of your work for the semester. (I will later distribute a handout on portfolio preparation.)

EXERCISE 3.1: proposal: Due in class #20. BRING FIVE COPIES.

Write a one or two paragraph proposal for this essay, describing:

- * your topic
- * your prospective argument (if you know it)
- * why you believe this essay would be interesting for readers.
- * a short bibliography of sources
- *(if you are focusing on the same topic as #2): how this essay will differ from #2
- *(if you are choosing the service-learning option): how this piece will draw on your service learning experience