

Engl 3840.003  
Spring 2017  
Essay 2 Assignment

**DUE: TUESDAY, MARCH 21 (hard-copy; in class; no emailed copies)**

- 500-word limit
- 12 pt. font; double-spaced
- quotes from week 8 reading assignments
- Use MLA format, including works cited.

Write a 500-word essay that engages with ONE particular question below. Choose only ONE question. Do not write your essay as a response to more than one question.

State your position in regard to the question. Make an argument and support it with at least two quotes from the relevant story or poem. Do not conduct outside research for this essay. Use only your own analysis of the text and the text itself as your source material.

Make sure you write a strong, argumentative thesis statement. Please put your thesis statement in **bold face type**.

1. Given the diverse approaches of Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. DuBois to racial politics in the U.S., state which approach you favor and why. Make sure you represent both sides of the debate and clearly articulate which side you consider most useful.
2. Consider the cultural commentary Edith Wharton suggests in "Roman Fever." What does she have to say about affluence in the early twentieth century U.S.? How does she connect this critique of affluence with gender politics, blood relations, and the Italian locale of the story? Remember to include quotes in your essay to support your argument. The title of this story seems especially relevant, as well as the use of perspective in depicting each of the characters.
3. Ricardo Flores Magón states that the Mexican Revolution must be dominated by reason and not instinct. Yet he also appeals greatly to his audience's passion for justice. Does he fulfill his own goal to build the movement on reason? Why or why not? Do you agree that it is possible or necessary to build a movement on reason alone?
4. Reflect on the use of nature in the poetry of Robert Frost or Edna St. Vincent Millay. To what use does he or she put nature, and how effective is it? Choose only one of these poets for your essay, and remember to use quotes to support your argument.
5. Make your own theme or argument. Please consult with me via email or office hours at least a week before the essay is due to finalize your own argument.