

GSW 1110 GSW 1110-137L (70966)
DIAGNOSTIC ESSAY
Grohowski
Fall 2011

Purpose of this Assignment: I'm not telepathic—your thoughts and abilities can't be communicated magically to me, so I don't know and I can't know your strengths and weaknesses as a writer (as they currently stand) *unless* I see a sample of *your* writing.

This assignment is a way for me to get to know you and a way for me to better instruct you. In order to better serve you in your writing success, I ask that you write a short essay, in which you respond to one of three prompts below. Although this assignment will not be graded, I ask that you take it seriously: That do your best work, so I can obtain an accurate picture regarding the areas on which I most need to focus instruction in this course.

Following the writing of this paper, you and I will schedule a (mandatory) conference (in my office) to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of your work, and to get to know one another a little bit.

Directions: Please select one of the topics below and compose a 350-500 word essay. I recommend engaging in some pre-writing / brainstorming activities to assist you in constructing a sound argument (create an outline, free-write, cluster—whatever you prefer). Note: You are not to consult websites or friends on this work. It's just you here, ok? I want to see your authentic work. Thanks. You are to upload it into a Google Doc and then email it to me by **Friday August 26 @ 12 am.**

Topic Options:

1. *Take a stand for or against a policy of concern to you!* In this essay, write about a policy that is in effect within your workplace, your high school, your community, or some other group to which you have belonged. Be sure to explain what the policy is and then explain your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with it.
2. *Voice your opinion about television!* In this essay, express an opinion you have regarding a specific program or type of program. Provide reasons to support your opinion, and then offer examples which illustrate your point.
3. *Voice your opinion about a particular kind of music!* Be sure to describe the kind of music about which you are expressing an opinion, provide reasons to support your opinion, and offer examples which illustrate your point.