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## 21W.777 The Science Essay

Spring 2009

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## Final Assignments

***For Thursday 5/7 (or Friday 5/8, my office)***

Hand in your re-revised essay 2, 3 or 4, including the previous 2 drafts and the Re-Revision Cover Sheet. I will grade the essays and return them Tuesday 5/12. Note: This assignment is optional. You may choose instead to revise your work and simply include it in your Portfolio.

***For Tuesday 5/12***

Work on re-revision and start pulling Portfolio together.

***For Thursday 5/14***

Re-revise/polish Essay 5. Assemble Portfolio. Write Portfolio Cover Letter.

***For our final two class meetings:***

Please bring 1-2 paragraphs of writing from a science essay that strikes you as especially good. Prepare to read it aloud and explain what you value in the writing. Your excerpt may be from something we've read from class, or not.

Also bring 1-2 pages of your own work that you especially like and be prepared to read that aloud in class.

We will share these during our last two sessions.

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## Re-Revision Cover Sheet for Essays 2-5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Essay \_\_\_\_\_ Draft \_\_\_\_\_

Before you submit a re-revised draft, make sure your essay has a clear thesis, and that the writing is as clear and enjoyable to read as you can make it. In addition, proofread it for typos and errors. If you hand in a re-revision *before* the Portfolio, include just the previous draft of the essay and the cover sheet. (In the Portfolio, include all drafts & Cover Sheet.)

**1) What has changed in this draft? Please be specific.**

**2) What is this essay's main idea or thesis?**

**3) Where do you see yourself growing as a writer with this essay?**

## Portfolios

To help me assess both the quality of your work and your improvement, I would like to see all your work in a portfolio.

You *may* re-revise Essays 2, 3 and/or 4. You *must* give a final polish to Essay 5, including either a page of Sources, listed alphabetically, or a “For Further Reading” page that divides sources into topics, and which lists sources alphabetically within categories.

### What, Why and How

In a simple 2-pocket folder, please arrange your drafts and cover sheets as follows:

- In the left-hand pocket, please put drafts of Essay 1-4, with most recent draft on top in each set.
- In the right-hand pocket, put drafts of Essay 5 and Portfolio Cover Letter.
- If you did free-writing in class for Essay 5 and/or other essays, please include that, too.
- Do NOT print out clean drafts of essays—I want the ones that are marked up with my comments.

### Cover Letter

The purpose of the Portfolio is to give you and me an opportunity to reflect on your work this term. To aid in this reflection, please address the following questions in a cover letter:

- What has changed in your writing and/or your approach to writing this term? Has anything changed in your reading practice?
- Which essay assignment stretched you the most? Explain.
- Which of your essays do you like best? Explain
- Anything else you want to comment on regarding your writing? (You will have an opportunity to comment on the course itself elsewhere.)

### When and Where

***Portfolios are due at our final class meeting, Thursday 5/14, or my office by 10:00 a.m. Friday 5/15.***

I will respond to your letters, and will leave Portfolios with letters to be picked up outside my office Monday May 18 after 2:00.

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