

ENGL 1143 Week 1

Semester Theme: What Do You Worship?

Don't freak out. I'm about to quote Jesus Christ. He said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," (*American Standard Version* Mat. 6. 21). In other words, you spend your money on what you love. In fact, what you love gets your money, fills your time, and consumes your thoughts. That love can be called *adoration* or *worship*, and the thing worshipped is a god. So whether you label yourself as religious or not, you're worshipping something. The evidence is probably on your phone.

For the purposes of this class, **you will define your "god" as the thing that receives most of your time, money, and thought.** What are you are adoring or worshipping? Watch the following videos to help you answer that question. And then fill in the blank.

[Time](#)

[Money](#)

[Thoughts](#)

I am "worshipping" _____.

Your response will lead you to your topic of research for the entire semester.

Essentials of Argument (EOA): Chapter 1, Quiz due Thursday, 4 June 2020, 11:30 PM

Read the chapter. Then complete the **EOA Chapter 1 Quiz** (Access this quiz in D2L through the calendar or under Assessments, Tests.)

Timed Writing Lesson

What is a timed writing? It is a position paper (or argument essay) that you write in 120 minutes or 2 hours.

Why must I write within a time limit? MSU requires its graduates to pass a Writing Proficiency Exam or complete ENGL 2113: Intermediate Composition Skills. The exam requires students to write a position paper of 300-500 words in 2 hours. So completing timed writings in this course prepares you to pass that exam.

How do I prepare for a timed writing? Each timed-writing assignment begins with a reading assignment. Here's a [sample reading assignment](#): "Identity Development as a Buffer of Adolescent Risk Behaviors in the Context of Peer Group Pressure and Control." Find this article in the msutexas.edu library databases by following these steps:

- Login to the msutexas.edu portal
- Choose library databases
- Select A-Z databases
- Select S, then *ScienceDirect*
- Paste the title of the article above into the first box and then search.
- When the article appears, open its PDF.

In the D2L Week 1 content, you can find the [sample assignment and a student essay response](#).

Do I write the 5 paragraph essay that I was taught in school? No, do not write the essay used to pass a standardized test. While organized similarly, the timed essays you'll write this semester will be only 4 paragraphs.

Two meaty, well-argued body paragraphs are better than 3 weak, generalized body paragraphs. Effective writing is based on **CUD: coherence, unity, and development**. Study the CUD materials in the Week 1 content of this course and watch their linked lessons before our Zoom meeting.

How should I Introduce and conclude a college-level essay? Practice some introductory and concluding methods for essay writing so you have ready tools for timed writing. You'll find a list of these methods and lessons for writing these paragraphs in the Week 1 content of this course.

Zoom: 30-Minute Thursday, 4 June 2020

Your morning, afternoon, or evening meeting is based on your reply to my Zoom email. Your questions related to Zoom will be answered through email.

For this first Zoom meeting be prepared to discuss the following:

- Argument is everywhere.
- CUD: Writing Effective Paragraphs
- What is your "god"?

Timed Writing #1: Monday, 8 June 2020, 6:00 AM-11:30 PM

See the D2L Calendar or Assessments, Tests for Timed Writing #1. Become accustomed to reading introductions before you take the timed writings because you will have a reading assignment to complete first. Reading at least a day ahead of writing will let you know the topic and give you the opportunity to take some notes. For this timed writing you'll be reading from your textbook "'A' Is for 'Absent'" by Chris Piper (Wood 25-26) and from Google Scholar "Does Class Attendance Predict Academic Performance in First Year Psychology Tutorials?" by Psychologists Victoria Alexander and Richard Hicks of Bond University.