

Essay Two
Draft due: Wednesday, February 20th
Final draft due: Wednesday, February 27th

Following the discussions we've had in class regarding "audience, genre, and purpose," and in keeping with the material in Chapter Three of your *Allyn and Bacon* textbook, your job in this paper is to write a closed-form essay with a persuasive purpose for an academic audience. The essays you've read represent a few different genre, but the genre of *your* essay will be the "argumentative essay" (to which we return again at the end of the term). In support of your argument in this paper, you will offer logical reasons of support, based on your own knowledge and drawn from the primary texts you're discussing.

For this essay, please develop the ideas that you began thinking about in Essay One. Use the background you developed in Essay One, on issues drawn from either one of the essays "A Backward Glance" or "Engineering Writing/Writing Engineering," and apply this analysis to Poe's "The Balloon Hoax." Choose the essay on which you wrote before. I will explain possible methods in class, so don't fret if you can't see any connections now. Your task is to decide upon a specific issue that unites two texts, either Whitman/Poe or Winsor/Poe. Then, you will build an argument.

So, you will begin by summarizing Poe. Next, you will identify a key issue that is significant in Poe's essay, and for your purposes it must have something to do with:

a) The qualities Americans value or *believe in* in written texts. This will be your choice if you plan to refer to Whitman.

or

b) "Science," or engineering, knowledge and the ways Americans value it as compared to "written" knowledge (if you are going to refer to Winsor). Poe's essay has everything to do with communicating "science" through writing.

After your first-paragraph summary of Poe's "The Balloon Hoax," the body of your essay will argue something about what Poe's essay does in light of one of the above themes. Your argument (thesis statement) should make a clear claim, i.e., "Poe's essay considers/is an example of/emphasizes _____. Readers should recognize this because _____." Or, "We can read Poe's essay as an example of _____. This is significant because _____." Throughout the body, following this statement, you will give examples to support these claims.

This essay must be four pages in length. Please quote from your two primary texts in MLA style. Quote from each at least twice and be sure to introduce each one before you quote. Include a Works Cited page.

The successful essay will:

1. Begin with an ample and accurate summary of Poe
2. Include full mention of both authors' names and text titles
3. Have a second paragraph that conforms to the generic standards of the argumentative "academic essay"
4. Have a second paragraph that concludes with a thesis (an argument) that concerns Poe and Whitman
5. Have effective "paragraphing" and developed claims of support for thesis
6. Include two quotes from each text (Poe and Whitman or Poe and Winsor)
7. Be closed form
8. Demonstrate comprehension of correct citation style (MLA)
9. Have strong and clear grammar

And everything else you've learned so far this term!