

ENGL 1102
Gordon State College
Spring 2018
Dr. Powers

Essay 2

Lewis Thomas writes, “It immensely pleases a human being to see something never seen before, even more to learn something never known before, most of all to think something never thought before.” In this statement, he celebrates the element of surprise in scientific observation and discovery. Reflecting on your own experiences reading Mary Roach’s book, write an essay describing a moment in your reading of chapters 9-16 when you saw, learned, or thought something new about Roach’s topic. How did that moment change your perspective?

Follow the outline below:

I) Introduction

A) Use one or more of the following introductory strategies:

- cite an interesting statistic
- suggest the long-term effects of your topic
- offer an analogy
- relate an anecdote
- make a surprising statement
- acknowledge an opinion or approach that is different from yours
- explain a concept or clarify or limit how you will use a term
- Do not pose questions in your introduction. Do not use clichés or platitudes. Do not use dictionary definitions of well-known words. Do not restate the assignment or offer an obvious statement of purpose like, “The purpose of my essay is to reflect on my experiences reading Roach’s book.”

B) Your thesis, which comes near the end of your introduction, and is a one or two-sentence overview of the moment in Roach’s book that changed your perspective, along with a concise and specific statement of how it changed your perspective.

II) Body paragraphs

- A) Paragraph 1 going into more detail about your changed perspective
- B) Paragraph 2 going into more detail about your changed perspective
- C) Paragraph 3 going into more detail about your changed perspective
- D) Paragraph 4 going into more detail about your changed perspective
- E) Etc.

III) Conclusion

A) Use one or more of the following conclusion strategies:

- echo your introduction
- challenge the reader
- look to the future
- draw a final conclusion about your topic

Each of your paragraphs should have a topic sentence, and each paragraph should work to support or elaborate on that topic sentence. Focus on only one main idea per paragraph.

Do not use quotes or paraphrases from Roach's book. Simply refer in your own words to a moment in Roach's book that changed your perspective. Provide enough context for a reader who is assumed to not have read Roach's book.

Do not use ANY outside sources for this essay. The only source you should use is Roach's book. The bulk of the essay is your own reflection of a moment in the book that changed your thinking.

Length: 1,000 words, minimum.

MLA format? Yes, with a Works Cited page that lists Mary Roach's book. See the last page of this handout for more instructions about formatting.

Essays will be graded based on effective paragraphing, introductions, and conclusions, effective reflection, and for completing all assignment objectives, but points will also be deducted for any of the following:

Major errors: subject/verb agreement; comma splices; fused sentences (run-ons); sentence fragments; incorrect usage of their, they're, there, your, you're, its, and it's; dangling participles; misspelled words; incorrect punctuation; tense shifts; poor paragraphing (too many points per paragraph, or undeveloped paragraphs)

Minor errors: incorrect hyphenation, incorrect capitalization; clichés; wordiness; overuse of language that might be considered sexist

Five or more types of major errors will automatically fail the paper with a maximum point score of 59 out of a 100. See the accompanying rubric handout for more information.

First draft due Tuesday, February 13th. Bring one printed copy to class.

Final draft due Thursday, February 15th. Submit the file for your essay to the designated Assignments dropbox on D2L by 2:00 PM. The file must be uncorrupted, and compatible with D2L. Be sure it is in either Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF format. If you use Pages for Mac, you must export the file for your essay to either Word or PDF format. Emailed essays will not be accepted for any reason. See **assignments** paragraph on page 3 of the syllabus.

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Formatting Your Essay

- 1) Set your font to Times New Roman.
- 2) Set 12 as your font size.
- 3) Set your spacing to double space.
- 4) If applicable, select “Remove Space After Paragraph” after you set your spacing to double space.
- 5) Type your name along the left-hand margin. Then hit “Enter” once.
- 6) Type my name: Dr. Powers. Hit “Enter” once.
- 7) Type the name of the class: English 1102. Hit “Enter” once.
- 8) Type the date you turn the paper in, formatted like this: 15 February 2018. Hit “Enter” once.
- 9) Select “Center.”
- 10) Type your title in Times New Roman 12-point font. No italics, underlining, all caps, or boldface type. Hit “Enter” once.
- 11) Set your text alignment from Center back to Left. Hit “Tab” to start a new paragraph.
- 12) Begin typing. At the end of your first paragraph, hit “Enter.” Then “Tab” again.
- 13) Start typing a new paragraph.
- 14) Use “Insert” to insert a header and page number on the upper right hand corner of each page. Be sure the font is Times New Roman and 12-point.
- 15) Refer to the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) for information about constructing your Works Cited page citation. Use the “Book with One Author” category. Also use the Hanging Indent feature on your word processor to successfully tab the second and subsequent lines of the citation.