ENGL 102 GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY #1: THE EVALUATION ESSAY

General

The general form for the evaluation essay is that something is good or bad because it does or does not meet the criteria (or standards) that you specify. For instance, you might evaluate a restaurant positively or negatively, based on the criteria of food quality, service, and price.

Recommended Topics

1. Review a movie, television program or series, musical performance (live or recorded), or a video game.

2. Evaluate one of the presidential candidates positively or negatively, based on whether or not he or she displays the qualities that you think are most important for a President of the United States.

3. Evaluate a law or policy, either local or national, that has affected you, or affected others, positively or negatively (admissions standards for a professional or academic program, eligibility for athletics, voting regulations, various age limits, “Obamacare”).

4. Evaluate a company or a product whose products or services you use or are familiar with, or a specific product or service from a particular company.

Logistics

1. Your first draft is due in class on February 3. Treat the first draft as a “dress rehearsal.” Turn it in typed and printed, and written to full 750-word length. You will sign up in class for 15-minute conference with the instructor to be February 8 (No class meeting that day.). Your final draft of the essay will due on Wednesday, February 10.

2. Don’t forget the fundamentals of coherent, well-organized writing: claim (based on clearly stated criteria), subtopics that develop the main idea in distinct paragraphs, concrete evidence for all your assertions, and accurate use of writing mechanics.

3. A good way to conclude the essay is to reflect on the significance of the issue that you are evaluating and why it should be important to others.