

Waddie Welcome Assignment

For this essay assignment, you must write an essay answering a question about the book *Waddie Welcome and the Beloved Community*. You may draw information from discussions we've had in class, and you may also draw your own conclusions about the book. However you decide to answer the question, you must ground your answers in evidence, so including specific examples from the book and from other experiences will be important. Choose one of the topics below and write your essay on it:

1. Considering what you've read in Kohler and Earl's book, would you want to be a citizen advocate yourself? Why or why not?
2. Critique Kohler and Earl's book. What aspects of it are done well, and what aspects are not? Think not only in terms of how it's written, but also how it's designed and edited.
3. Of all the people introduced in this book—except Waddie Welcome and the authors—who would you have liked to know more? Explain.
4. Waddie Welcome is described in this book as “a surprising new leader.” Do you agree with this term? Why nor why not?

Your paper should meet the following criteria:

- It should have a clear main idea that addresses one of the above questions.
- It should include a catchy introduction that grabs the reader's attention and leads smoothly to the clear thesis statement.
- It should rely on specific details and examples to thoroughly develop the main idea.
- It should demonstrate logical organization of paragraphs and logical organization of ideas within those paragraphs.
- It should employ an engaging writing style.
- It should use correct documentation of sources according to current MLA guidelines.
- It should show evidence of careful proofreading.
- It should avoid the typical five-paragraph formula; instead it should expand beyond that format to show intellectual investment indicative of a college student.
- It should be typed on a word processor and double spaced. It should be saved as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) or saved in Rich Text Format (.rtf).

Please save your essay and your works cited page all in one document. Do not send Dr. Remler two different documents. When you name your document, please use your own name in the file name, as in **joneswaddiewelcome.doc** or **jonesfirstessay.rtf**. You will e-mail your paper to Dr. Remler's e-mail address: **Nancy.Remler@Armstrong.edu**. Send it as an attachment. She must receive it by **12:00 noon on Friday, September 17, 2010**.

When Dr. Remler receives your essay, she will send you a confirmation message. If you do not receive a confirmation message by **1:30 Friday, September 17**, you should be worried and **call Dr. Remler** at 344-2607 to discuss the problem. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper got to Dr. Remler safely. Please contact Dr. Remler if you have any questions.

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Investigation Essay

For this paper, you will select a common technology in contemporary society and investigate its effect on human behavior. For example, you may decide to focus on texting's effect on communications, the computer's effect on writing and research skills, the wireless phone's effect on conversation, or the fast food restaurant's effect on cooking. You might examine the cash register's effect on one's ability to calculate in the head, or you might investigate the hand sanitizer's effect on people's hygienic habits. You are not limited to the above examples. You can select a topic of your own. As you investigate your topic, you must employ close observation and an interview.

Your field research methods should be valid and appropriate. If you choose the easiest or most convenient research method, your lack of ambition will show up in your grade. For instance, you may not interview your roommate simply to ask him/her "How has texting affected your writing skills?" Your roommate is probably not the most appropriate person to interview. Furthermore, you may not sit in your dorm room and watch your roommate send text messages and consider that field research. You might, on the other hand, sit in on another class (not your own) and watch to see how many students engage in text messaging during a class, or you might interview the tutors in the writing center to ask them if the habits of text messaging show up in many students' writing.

You should use the data you collect from your field research as specific examples to support your main idea. However, you can also use other kinds of examples in addition to that field research data. You can also draw on your own experiences, and you can refer to information you discussed in the media. If you choose to refer to any print/online source for information, you must cite that source in current MLA style.

In addition, your paper should meet the following criteria:

- It should have a clear main idea.
- It should include a catchy introduction that grabs the reader's attention and leads smoothly to the clear thesis statement.
- It should rely on specific details and examples to thoroughly develop the main idea (see above).
- It should demonstrate logical organization of paragraphs and logical organization of ideas within those paragraphs.
- It should employ an engaging writing style.
- It should use correct documentation of sources according to current MLA guidelines.

- It should show evidence of careful proofreading.
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Please save your essay and your works cited page all in one document. Do not send Dr. Remler two different documents. When you name your document, please use your own name in the file name, as in **jonesinvestigationessay.doc** or **jonessecondessay.rtf**. You will e-mail your paper to Dr. Remler's e-mail address:

Nancy.Remler@Armstrong.edu. Send it as an attachment. She must receive it by class time on **Wednesday, October 6, 2010**.

When Dr. Remler receives your essay, she will send you a confirmation message. If you do not receive a confirmation message by **5:00 Wednesday, October 6**, you should be worried and **call Dr. Remler** at 344-2607 to discuss the problem. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper got to Dr. Remler safely. Please contact Dr. Remler if you have any questions.

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Proposal Essay

For this essay, you will identify something in your community that warrants change and propose a possible solution for that problem or gap. For instance, you may argue that a law should be changed, or you might propose construction of a building/park/parking lot/school/fountain. You might call for a closure of an offensive business, or you might recommend altering a school or institutional policy. The choice is yours.

As you write this proposal, you should conduct library/electronic research. The information from that research should be used to *support* your proposal, not to introduce it. Your proposal should refer only to valid sources, which you found using the library's databases. You may not refer to information you found on general information sources, such as encyclopedia, about.com, answers.com, and the like. If you turn in a paper that refers to Wikipedia, Dr. Remler will just give it back to you. Your proposal should cite sources in correct, current MLA style, both in text and on the works cited page. While information from sources should help you support your main idea, you can also include specific examples from your own experiences, others' experiences, and hypothetical situations. In addition to these criteria, your paper should adhere to the following:

- It should have a clear main idea that proposes some kind of change or solution.
- It should include a catchy introduction that grabs the reader's attention and leads smoothly to the clear, debatable thesis statement.
- It should rely on specific details and examples to thoroughly develop the main idea (see above).

- It should demonstrate logical organization of paragraphs and logical organization of ideas within those paragraphs.
- It should employ an engaging writing style.
- It should use correct documentation of sources according to current MLA guidelines.
- It should show evidence of careful proofreading.
- It should avoid the typical five-paragraph formula; instead it should expand beyond that format to show intellectual investment indicative of a college student.
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When Dr. Remler receives your essay, she will send you a confirmation message. If you do not receive a confirmation message by **1:30 Friday, November 5**, you should be worried and **call Dr. Remler** at 344-2607 to discuss the problem. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper got to Dr. Remler safely. Please contact Dr. Remler if you have any questions.

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Analysis Essay

This essay assignment is a bridge assignment to prepare you for ENGL 1102. It requires that you analyze a work of literature. You have read and discussed two short stories:

- “The Man Who Was Almost A Man” by Richard Wright and
- “A Small, Good Thing” by Raymond Carver

Choose one of the topics below and write an essay on it.

“A Small, Good Thing”

1. How do characters in the story exemplify the importance of personal connection?
2. How does a motif of isolation develop in this story?
3. How is the confrontation in the bakery like a religious ritual? Explain.

“The Man Who Was Almost a Man”

1. What is Dave's definition of a man, and how is his definition accurate or inaccurate?
2. How much of Dave's predicament comes from irresponsibility, and how much of it develops from his social status?
3. How important are the images of dark and light in this story? Explain how those images contribute to the story's meaning.

As you write your analysis, be sure to adhere to the following guidelines:

- It should have a clear main idea that addresses one of the questions above.
- It should include a catchy introduction that grabs the reader's attention and leads smoothly to the clear thesis statement that sets up an analysis of the story.
- It should avoid summarizing the story and instead *analyze* the story to answer the topic question.
- It should reveal evidence that the writer has read and understood the story and considered it carefully.
- It should rely on specific details and examples to thoroughly develop the main idea (see above). Those specific details and examples should come largely from the story, but some other examples might come from your experiences.
- It should demonstrate logical organization of paragraphs and logical organization of ideas within those paragraphs.
- It should employ an engaging writing style.
- It should cite the story according to current MLA guidelines.
- It should show evidence of careful proofreading.
- It should avoid the typical five-paragraph formula; instead it should expand beyond that format to show intellectual investment indicative of a college student.
- It should be typed on a word processor and double spaced. It should be saved as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) or saved in Rich Text Format (.rtf).

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When Dr. Remler receives your essay, she will send you a confirmation message. If you do not receive a confirmation message by **5:00 December 6**, you should be worried and **call Dr. Remler** at 344-2607 to discuss the problem. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper got to Dr. Remler safely. Please contact Dr. Remler if you have any questions.

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