The purpose of this assignment is to write an essay after researching the topic of immigration to the United States. The body of your essay will be comprised of four sections: “Article 1,” “Article 2,” “Library Article,” and “My Family History & Immigration.” The writing tasks you will encounter range from narration and description to definition and analysis. Putting it all together into a cohesive statement is definitely a challenging writing task, but one that will hopefully channel your ideas and thoughts about immigration in US culture into an articulate and persuasive position.

**Purpose:** To write a expository & analytical essay investigating the topic of immigration in the United States.

**Audience:** Those interested in immigration policies and racial relations in the US.

**Tone:** Reasonable and free of distortions. Medium level of formality. Keep the use of “I” for relating personal narratives and stories.

**Paper Requirements**

1. Seven to eight pages in length. (Extra Credit if paper is ten pages long)
2. The paper includes an introduction with a thesis statement, body sections, and a conclusion.
3. Includes at least three direct quotations, one from each required article.
5. Follows MLA guidelines for citation of sources, parenthetical documentation, and format.

**How To Begin**

In class we will do free-writing activities that can be used as starting points for the “My Family History & Immigration” body sections. The two immigration articles will be handed out and then discussed in class. Use the topics and issues raised in the free-write and the immigration articles in order to find one article from the Cabrillo College library databases that you can use in your essay. Think of the article you choose as an authoritative source that helps explain your understanding of the issue of immigration in the United States. Your personal analytic, descriptive and narrative writing and the article sections should work together to form the core of a cohesive essay; what have you experienced, thought, felt about immigration in our current culture? How does the your family history affect your understanding and experience? How do the assigned articles support, explain or expand your thoughts and experience?

Eventually, you should develop a thesis statement that relates a main idea about immigration in the United States; after developing a working thesis statement you are then ready to write the introduction, transitions and the conclusion. (The following pages describe these writing tasks.)
Thesis Statement

The thesis statement prepares the reader for what is to come. It is the main idea of your essay, and incorporates the range of information that your essay will discuss. A strong thesis statement states the essay’s subject, an assertion about the subject, and is clearly written.

For this essay, the subject is your experience of race in the US and the election of Barack Obama, while the assertion relates your position about that subject; the subject states the “what,” while the assertion explains “what about it.”

Thesis Statement Checklist

1. Does your thesis state the essay’s main idea?
2. Does it indicate a concrete subject and assert a particular a point of view? In other words, what is the main idea and why is it important?
3. Is it written in specific language?

Transitions

1. Transitions link one section of your essay to another, and they also serve the purpose of reminding the reader of your thesis.
   a. Restate the main point of what you’ve just written and mention how that point leads to your next idea.
   b. Try to echo the language used in your thesis.
2. The length and placement of transitions depends upon your particular essay.
   a. Transitions may be one sentence at the end of a paragraph.
   b. Transitions may be two to three sentences at the end of a paragraph.
   c. Transitions may be one to three sentences at the end of a paragraph and one to three sentences at the beginning of the next paragraph.
   d. Transitions may be at the beginning of the next paragraph.
   e. Transitions may consist of one complete separate paragraph.
3. Transitions weave your essay together.
   a. By restating phrases from your thesis throughout your paper, you create a unified thread for the reader to follow.
   b. And by restating the main idea of your thesis, but in different words, you also create another unifying thread for the reader to follow.
Putting It All Together

Your essay must include the following parts: an introduction with a thesis statement, body sections, and a conclusion. The following outline may be useful as you combine the mini-essays into one cohesive piece of writing:

Outline

Section 1: Introduction
a. Begin with a general overview:
   i. Tell a story, define a key term, propose a question, present an example, draw an analogy or relate background information.

b. The final sentence must be the thesis statement.

Section 2: “Immigration Article 1,” “Immigration Article 2,” “Library Article,” and “My Family History & Immigration.”

a. These four mini-essays make up the body of your paper.
b. They may go in any order.
c. You may add sections, paragraphs, sentences as needed.
d. Before and after each mini-essay, you will need to add transitions linking the mini-essays together.

e. Transitions must also mention and reflect the thesis.

Section 3: Conclusion

a. These are your final words on the topic. What do you want the reader to remember?
   i. Echo the strategy used in the introduction or choose a new one: Tell a story, define a key term, propose a question, present an example, draw an analogy or relate background information.

b. Do not, I repeat, do not state, “In conclusion, . . .”
c. Do not summarize your paper with phrases such as, “In this paper, I’ve shown . . .,” or “My paper has been about . . .”

Direct Quotations

• Your essay must include three direct quotations, one from each required article; you may use more, but three is the minimum. Follow MLA guidelines—read the textbook!

• Follow “Reading Response Guidelines” and write summary and response paragraphs for each required article.

• Always explain the significance of the quote. Do not assume the quote says it all. Do not end a paragraph on a quotation.
My Family History and Immigration
Writing Prompt

What is your family’s immigration history? This prompt will vary depending on if your family story is one of recent immigration, one of the long ago past, or perhaps somewhere in-between. We’re all part of this nation, so what’s your story? How do you fit into the big picture of US culture?

Recent immigration:

Describe your country of origin. What does it look like? What languages are spoken? What are the people like? What are the economic and political situations? How long has your family been in that nation? How far back can you trace the generations? Is there a family member that you would like to write about, someone who greatly influenced your family’s history? What do you miss the most? What’s it like to live in you country of origin? What is the best aspect of living in the United States?

So long ago, we forgot:

How far back can you trace the generations? Has your family moved around the United States? Why have they relocated? What does this story say about US culture? Has your family been in one location for as long as everyone remembers? What is it about this location that keeps your family there? What are the values of this lifestyle?

Somewhere in-between:

How long has your family been in the United States? Count the generations; who came here first? Have you assimilated to US culture? In what ways? Do you maintain the language and customs of the country of origin? Why or why not? Have the hopes been realized or have they changed? What is your relationship to your, your parent’s or grandparent’s country of origin? How has your family affected the community in which they live? Is this connected to their lifestyle in the country of origin?

Answer one, all or none of the above questions. Write for fifteen minutes, non-stop.

Revise, type and bring to class on the due date.