

## **Take Home Essay**

**Task set:** Thursday, January 3, 2007 via SU Course at 10:00 a.m.

**A softcopy of your essay must be submitted to SUCourse:**

Thursday, January 10, 2007 by 10:00 a.m.

**Please read the guidelines below before you begin writing:**

- Time limit: January 3 – January 10 (1 week)
- Word count:: 750-1000 words
- Direct reference to 3-5 sources. These are a combination of both course materials **and** at least one additional text (please see the list of texts below).
- Typed in Word for Windows 2003 version, 12 pt, Times New Roman Font

**Note:**

Late papers will receive an automatic 0.

### **Essay Question:**

The following quote by Charles Dickens is said to “capture the contradictory experiences of adolescence”; would you agree?

*“/t was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way. . .”*

Discuss your understanding of the diverse factors that play a significant role for youth in:

- shaping identity,
- attaining an image,
- establishing relationships with the people around them;

illustrate your arguments by selecting one specific character from one of the short stories we have dealt with in class.

### **NEW Texts:**

Gauntlett, D. (2002). Some background debates. In *Media, gender and identity* (pp.19-48) London: Routledge.

Rutten, Paul (ed.) (1996) Music, culture and society in Europe. Part II of: European Music Office, Music in Europe. Brussels, 85-97.

**Texts dealt with in class:**

Baldwin, J. (1957). *Sonny's blues* (pp. 26-52) in Gioia, D. & Gwynn, R. S. (2006). *The art of the short story: 52 great authors, their best short fiction, and their insights on writing*. New York: Pearson Longman

Cather, W. (1905) *Paul's case* (pp. 106-121) in Gioia, D. & Gwynn, R. S. (2006). *The art of the short story: 52 great authors, their best short fiction, and their insights on writing*. New York: Pearson Longman

Cisneros, S. (1991). *Barbie-Q* (pp. 160-163) in Gioia, D. & Gwynn, R. S. (2006). *The art of the short story: 52 great authors, their best short fiction, and their insights on writing*. New York: Pearson Longman

Faulkner, W. (1930) *A rose for Emily* (pp.238-245) in Gioia, D. & Gwynn, R. S. (2006). *The art of the short story: 52 great authors, their best short fiction, and their insights on writing*. New York: Pearson Longman

Goodman, B. (Director/Producer). (2003). *The merchants of cool*. Boston: WGBH Educational Foundation/PBS Home Video.

Hawthorne, N. (1846) *The birthmark* (p. 357-369) in Gioia, D. & Gwynn, R. S. (2006). *The art of the short story: 52 great authors, their best short fiction, and their insights on writing*. New York: Pearson Longman

Lessing, D. (1963) *A woman on a roof* (pp. 537-546) in Gioia, D. & Gwynn, R. S. (2006). *The art of the short story: 52 great authors, their best short fiction, and their insights on writing*. New York: Pearson Longman

Oates, J. C. (1970) *Where are you going, where have you been?* (pp. 663-676) in Gioia, D. & Gwynn, R. S. (2006). *The art of the short story: 52 great authors, their best short fiction, and their insights on writing*. New York: Pearson Longman

Nichols, S. (2004). The continuing myth of adolescence. In *America's teenagers – myths and realities: Media images, schooling and the social costs of careless indifference*. Mahwah, NJ, USA: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Inc. Retrieved September 14, 2007 from Ebrary database.

Romo, L. I. (2005). Sandra Cisneros' "Barbie-Q": A subversive or hegemonic popular

text? *American Popular Culture*, (24), 127-137. Retrieved June 11, 2007, from Ebscohost database.

The Virgin Suicides (2000). Paramount Classics.

### **Freshman English Plagiarism Notice**

*Like all SU university courses, Freshman English 101 and 102 value students' original ideas and opinions. Therefore, all work submitted throughout the year is expected to be the student's own.*

*Plagiarism, that is, presenting another person's idea(s) or a part of their work as if it is one's own, is a grave offence that will be met with penalty. Plagiarism also includes submitting another student's work, cutting and pasting, as well as buying papers from the Internet or from another person.*

*Any plagiarized work detected by a Freshman English instructor will be reviewed by a minimum of four Freshman English instructors and may result in a 0 for the assignment, failure in the course and/or referral to the SU disciplinary committee.*