

English 118--Puente Mr. Leong
Essay Paper Topics

Paper 3 is a 1000-2000 word (4 - 6 page double-spaced, word-processed or typewritten) essay. It should be on one of the topics below, and it must integrate and reference at least 2 of the essays and ideas discussed in the "Harmony at Home" unit and in class. For example, if you are writing an essay that defines family, you should discuss, in the essay, the definition and criterion presented by the authors and those we talked about in our class discussions. Use your best writing strategies to plan, write and revise the essay. The essay is worth 200 points; 20% of the total course grade.

1. Through this chapter, families have been portrayed through a variety of metaphors: they have appeared as a nuclear unit, a house with many connecting rooms, a network of relationships, and a quilt with many parts. In an essay, explore the implications of each of these metaphors? How do they affect yours and society's view of family? Think of other metaphors that might capture yours/our vision of American family life.

2. Using the authors read in class for the unit on "Harmony at Home", write an essay that articulates the definition of family according to each author. How would each author respond to the other's definitions?

3. Compare and contrast the definition of family in at least 2 of the assigned essay/stories. How is family defined? Under whose description in the "Harmony at Home" unit would you agree with and why? How would the authors in this unit respond to your definition of family?

4. In Anndee Hochman's essay, she suggests that belonging to a family requires complete conformity. In an essay, explore the concept of family in Hochman, Dixon, and Jack. Come to some conclusion about the American family. Does it encourage strong values and beliefs? Does it encourage or smother individuality? How might Melvin Dixon and Roger Jack respond as opposed to Hochman?