

Essay #3
Re-seeing the Familiar

In Seeing and Writing 3 we examined the work of many visual artists who challenged us to see something familiar in a new way. We not only looked at icons but looked at parodies and allusions to icons. Guy Davenport's essay on an iconic painting helped us see beyond the familiar image. Sally Stein revealed how the subject of an iconic photograph wished she had never allowed it to be taken. Anne Fadiman shows us how the meaning of an icon like the flag can change over time. Michael Pollan encourages us to look more closely at the familiar food that we take for granted and see them in a new way. Reflect further on the assignments we've read and discussed:

Guy Davenport, "The Geography of the Imagination," p. 508

Sally Stein, "Passing Likeness," p. 533

Paul Rand, "Logos, Flags, and Escutcheons," p. 564

Anne Fadiman, "A Piece of Cotton," p. 580

Michael Pollan, The Omnivore's Dilemma, pages 1-273

Your assignment is to write an essay which shows us an icon or something familiar in a new light. Use the essays we have studied in this unit as models for your own. Your insight about the icon or something familiar should be clearly stated in a thesis. You are required to use at least 3 quotations or paraphrased citations and include a Works Cited page.

NOTE: You must obtain approval of your topic from your instructor BEFORE you begin your draft.

Rhetorical Considerations

Audience: the teacher, the class, a college-level audience.

When selecting your topic, consider whether your "icon" is generally regarded as such and assess how "familiar" something is to a general audience.

Consider how "new" your own insight is. Look to your instructor and your peer groups for guidance.

Purpose: to present a new way of looking at an icon or a familiar topic.

Your insight should be readily identifiable in a thesis statement. The success of your essay will depend on how well you convey your thesis, with strong points and relevant support.

Thesis: clear, well-stated.

The main insight of your essay, your thesis, should be obvious to the careful reader. See the handout on building a strong thesis.

Voice: appropriate to your purpose. Select a voice, tone, and style that help you convey your insights effectively.

Length: 750-1250 words (3-5 pages) typed, double-spaced, 12-point font

Other Requirements

Draft due on _____

Peer Review on _____ and _____

Final copy due on _____

Remember to use a manila file folder to turn in:

- Final Copy
- Draft
- My comments on your draft
- Your comments on your peers' drafts (counts toward homework and classroom Community grades)
- Peer Review Group evaluation (homework)