

Essay III: Evaluation Essay

Length: 3-4 full pages

Paper must follow MLA Conventions and be stapled

Rough Draft Due: October 24th

Final Draft Due: October 27th

This essay will demonstrate your ability to analyze and judge value according to appropriate criteria that you will determine.

Write Local Waco

Evaluate a local:

- **Restaurant/coffee shop**
- **Tourist attraction** (like the Dr. Pepper Museum, Waco Mammoth Site, Texas Ranger Museum, etc.)
- **Performance** (like a concert, play, musical, etc.)
- **Other public space** (business, church, etc), **event, or service** *with my permission*
(contact me BEFORE proposals are due)

Parameters: This needs to be a locally owned and operated establishment, something that you can experience yourself. You must not choose a chain, i.e. Starbucks or Chick-fil-a. Look beyond campus to the larger Waco community. Choose something *specific* and *manageable*, i.e. part of the Heart of Texas fair, not its entirety. You will need to identify the criteria you will be using to make specific judgments about your topic. Your essay must also include evidence that supports your judgments. Your criteria and evidence must be appropriate to the topic and you must provide a well-supported conclusion that informs the reader of the value (whether positive or negative) of the place, event, performance, etc.

Thesis: Your thesis will need to include two parts: 1) your list of criteria and 2) an overview of your evaluation of how well your topic fulfills (or does not fulfill) the criteria. How these two components work together in the thesis statement will vary from topic to topic, paper to paper, but both components must somehow be clearly stated in every thesis.

Ask Yourself:

- Is my claim (thesis) **clear**?
- Are my criteria **appropriate** for the topic?
- Have I used criteria most people would **recognize** and **use** in evaluating this topic?
- Will the reader know **exactly** what criterion I am addressing in each paragraph?
- Do I make a **clear judgment** in response to each criterion?
- Do I offer **ample and specific evidence** to support each judgment?
- Have I overlooked any obvious criteria that my audience would be interested in?
- Are the components of my evaluation **fair** and **balanced**?

A basic outline for the paper:

Introduction should...

- Grab the reader's attention in an interesting way and introduce the topic
- Transition to two-part thesis (final 1-2 sentences of the introduction): part 1, criteria; part 2, judgment.

Body Paragraphs should...

- Be well organized (clear and logical)
- Begin with clear topic sentences that reflect a particular criteria discussed in each paragraph
- Use examples and specific details drawn from personal knowledge, experience, and research
- Have clear, concise, and specific support
- Have strong transitions between paragraphs

Conclusion should...

- Summarize the criteria and reemphasize the thesis
- Explore the larger significance of this evaluation

Kelm *Fall 2014*
[Include an interesting and informative title. Your essay should be double-spaced, and the font should be 12 pt. Times New Roman. Please include a Works Cited page if you have any sources.]