

Fall 2004 Essay Sequence  
“Reading and Writing Prose: Dissenting Voices”

Essay 1

**Texts:** Plato’s “Apology,” King’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

**Kind of Essay:** Single text analysis.

**Content focuses for the unit:**

- (1) Principle of non-violence
- (2) The three rhetorical appeals: ethos, logos, pathos
- (3) Taking the high ground

**Writing focuses for the unit:**

- (1) Arguable Thesis that addresses a problem
- (2) Progressive Structure—neither 5¶ nor chronological

Essay 2

**Texts:** *Fahrenheit 9/11*; Coursepack on *F9/11*, Patriot Act

**Kind of Essay:** Controlled Research Essay

**Content focuses for the unit:**

- (1) The Little Guy
- (2) Commercialism
- (3) Agitation vs. Compromise
- (4) The Documentary Premise

**Writing focuses for the unit:**

- (1) Using theoretical and background evidence
- (2) Using non-written evidence
- (3) Engaging counter-arguments seriously
- (4) Continuation of lessons from Essay 1.

Essay 3

**Texts:** Coursepack on music & contemporary culture

**Kind of Essay:** Research Essay

**Content Focuses for the unit:**

- (1) Non-conformity consumerism
- (2) Youth Culture
- (3) Conservative Dissent

**Writing focuses for the unit:**

- (1) Finding appropriate primary & secondary sources
- (2) Establishing context with multiple sources
- (3) Weaving primary & secondary sources in an argument
- (4) Structure lessons: forecasting, signposting, and stitching