

ENG 1100 (Sexton) Essay Analysis Assignment

This exercise is specifically designed to help you practise for the final exam. The question is taken directly from an old exam so you can see exactly what to expect. Although the essay and the essay-specific questions will, of course, be different in your exam, the general principles will be very similar. You will, for example, almost certainly be asked about thesis, structure, argument, and tone.

In the exam, you will have about an hour for this section. If you wish, time yourself when you write your first draft of this assignment. That way, you will have the opportunity to see how you will hold up under exam conditions. You can then go back and polish the results to submit for this assignment. You must present the final version properly, following the presentation guidelines for the course. **Under no circumstances should you do any research for this assignment.**

Due date: November 10, 17 or 24 (your choice).

Questions

Goal: to demonstrate critical reading, paraphrasing, and summarizing skills.

Instructions: Read Mel Hurtig's essay assigned for class 8b ("Never Heard of Them...They Must be Canadian"). Answer the following questions.

Evaluation will be based on your demonstration of your ability to read critically. This may include such criteria as identification and articulation of thesis/main idea and the ability to identify and summarize the main points of the argument.

1. **(3 marks)** In your own words, state the thesis of the essay.
2. **(5 marks)** How would you characterize Hurtig's tone? Give two or three examples to show how the tone is created.
3. **(6 marks)** Choose three examples of ironies that Hurtig identifies and explain how they reinforce his point.
4. **(2 marks)** Comment on the significance of the title of the essay.
5. **(5 marks)** Comment on the structure of the essay.
6. **(4 marks)** In your own words, explain why Hurtig thinks that knowledge of Canada is essential.
7. **(10 marks)** In one carefully crafted paragraph, comment on Hurtig's argument. Do you find it effective? Do you agree with him?