

Documented Essay
ENWR 106: College Writing II
Instructor: Gerrie Logan

Topic choices for the Documented Essay:

“M. BUTTERFLY” by David Hwang

- The Nathaniel Branden in his essay “Immature Love” states that “There is a tendency for immature persons to view others primarily, if not exclusively, as sources for gratification of their own wants and needs, not as human beings in their own right, much as an infant views a parent” (872). Research romantic love. Find experts who argue that it is simply a cultural illusion and write a position paper agreeing or disagreeing with them.
- In Judith Butler’s book, *Gender Trouble*, she explains that actions and gestures are performative in the sense that the essence or identity that they purport are fabrications manufactured and sustained by established societal expectations, she concludes, “That the gendered body is performative suggests that it has no ontological status apart from the various acts which constitute its reality” (2497). Relate this theory along with other theorists to Hwang’s “M. Butterfly.” How does this explain Song’s ability of successfully masquerading as a woman for 20 years?
- Research and write an essay that discusses the ways in which Hwang weaves his concerns about imperialism, racism, or sexism into the play.