

**Essay 1: Updike & Silko**  
**ENWR 106: College Writing II**  
**Instructor: Petrich**

*\*Review the Course Policies on Paper Assignments  
to be eligible for full credit for each draft.\**

**Choose one of the topics below. For each topic, you are being asked to develop an original argument that draws on textual evidence as well as on your own cultural experiences—if relevant—for support.**

The Questions to Consider under each topic are meant to provide an approach to each story and to help you generate ideas that may be useful in formulating your argument. **You do not necessarily have to answer these questions directly in your paper**, but your responses to them can help inform the direction or support of your argument, whether this makes it into the paper explicitly or not.

Topic #1: Leslie Marmon Silko, “Yellow Woman”:

For this topic, develop an argument in which you take a position on the narrator’s romantic adventure with Silva: Is she a victim of a seduction, as the embodiment of an ancestral fertility figure, or a housewife living out a romantic fantasy?

Questions to Consider: Why does the narrator follow Silva and accept the role of Yellow Woman? Is she a character in the myth that her dead grandfather used to tell her? Is she seeking to fulfill inner desires? Is she acting against her will? Why does she return to her family at the end of the story? Should she face the consequences of adultery?

Topic #2: John Updike, “A&P”:

For this topic, develop an argument in which you take a position on Sammy’s quitting at the end of the story: Does he quit for himself or for the sake of the girls?

Questions to Consider: Is Sammy's quitting a form of rebellion or a statement of some sort? What is he rebelling against? Are there unconscious targets of his rebellion? Who is the enemy here? Are there any forms of oppression at work in the story? Who is oppressed (or "embarrassed" for that matter)? Is Sammy's standing up for the girls in some way a form of standing up for himself?