

Essay #4: The Power of the Word

Draft #1 Due: (2-3 pages)

Draft#2 Due: (3-4 pages)

Final Draft Due: (4-5 pages) (include all drafts and feedback from peers and instructor)

Format Requirements: Paper should be double-spaced and written in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. Use MLA in-text citations when quoting.

Source Requirements: Use at least 2 readings from the textbook to develop your argument. Also, try to use one outside source.

Write an argumentative essay that responds to one of the essay prompts below. *You don't have to respond to **each** question in the prompt—just use the prompt to brainstorm and come up with ideas.*

Do words really have as much power as described in Martha Irvine's article, "Queer Revolution"?

Write an essay defending or criticizing the use of certain words that have sharply divergent meanings and that in one context might be considered inflammatory, on others complimentary. Explain the difference between the use of a word to defeat its negativity, and the "abuse" of a word as a means of insult. Where does one draw the line? You may find it helpful to read Gloria Naylor's "The Meanings of a Word" before starting to write.

In order to complete this assignment successfully, make sure you:

- State your **central claim** (main argument) in your introduction.
- **Develop** your argument in your body paragraphs by providing **quotes** from the readings and **examples** from your own experience.
- In each body paragraph, **explain** how your quotes and examples **support** your argument.