

## English 110 Essay Final

For the final essay exam I'd like you to prove once more your ability to compose a close textual analysis that effectively applies the literary theory you've learned over the course of the term. Please write an analysis of one of the selections listed below, your choice. Choose also just one of the theoretical approaches we've studied this term as the basis for your analysis – New Criticism, Reader Response, Deconstruction, or Feminist Criticism, your choice. You may bring with you and use any materials from the class you think are relevant to the essay you'll write **except for**: a prewritten draft or anything on an electronic device. Otherwise, any notes, course texts and/or unit resources I've provided over the course of the term are allowed.

Choose any ONE of these as your primary source material:

- A scene(s), section(s), or a series of related passages from *King Lear*
- The attached "Hope" image (you may use and cite the attached Wikipedia background information on the image in your analysis work if you wish) **\*Image and accompanying Wikipedia summary description are attached**
- Any one of the poems included at the end of each theory chapter in *Texts and Contexts* (you may use the question sets that follow each poem to help you build your thesis and/or analysis work)

Again, using your chosen selection (*King Lear*, the "Hope" image, or a poem from *Texts and Contexts*) in conjunction with the concepts and strategies you've learned from your study of literary criticism, do an analysis of the selection that fits with your chosen theoretical approach. Take your time, say one important thing that a New Critic, Reader Response critic, deconstructionist or feminist critic might say when looking at this work, and say it well.

Remember that this essay is pass/fail: essays that do not show consistent, error-free control of thesis, sentences, paragraphs and textual referencing will receive a 0 in the grade book, likely pulling your overall course grade below passing.

Please follow these guidelines as you build your essay:

1. Before you begin your analysis, provide a brief summary description of your selection *and* your chosen theoretical approach as you seek to explain and justify why you're choosing to focus on a specific element(s) in the selection.
2. Keep your focus narrow and clearly defined from the start. Develop a clear, explicit and well-defined thesis argument to anchor your discussion. Make sure your thesis is not simply a summary but rather an arguable assertion about something in the writing you're examining.
3. Follow the 75/25 rule in your internal paragraph development: three quarters of your discussion work should be your own words and ideas while the remaining quarter may be cited material, either paraphrased or quoted.
4. To demonstrate that you've mastered the essay form, use standard academic language (third person, present tense, no slang speech) in your writing. *\*If you're using Reader Response as your approach, you may reference yourself in your discussion work.*
5. To demonstrate that you understand the theory you're using, use relevant vocabulary terms and concepts from that approach in your discussion as you unfold your analysis.
6. Manage your time well: Plan, draft, and proofread your work very carefully: you will have no rewrite opportunities and I will be looking for excellent sentence and paragraph control and consistently error free writing in order to pass your work.
7. Use standard MLA parenthetical citation rules when quoting or paraphrasing your sources. You do not need to create a works cited list.
8. Essay responses must be a minimum of **5-6 paragraphs** in length in order to receive credit.
9. Double space your work and label the final version in your blue book with the words FINAL VERSION so that I can easily find it when I evaluate your essay.



**HOPE**

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# Barack Obama "Hope" poster

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The **Barack Obama "Hope" poster** is an image of Barack Obama designed by artist Shepard Fairey, which was widely described as iconic and became synonymous with the 2008 Obama presidential campaign.<sup>[1][2]</sup> It consists of a stylized stencil portrait of Obama in solid red, beige and (pastel and dark) blue, with the word "progress", "hope", or "change" below (and other words in some versions).

The design was created in one day and printed first as a poster. Fairey sold 350 of the posters on the street immediately after printing them. It was then more widely distributed—both as a digital image and other paraphernalia—during the 2008 election season, initially independently but with the approval of the official Obama campaign. The image became one of the most widely recognized symbols of Obama's campaign message, spawning many variations and imitations, including some commissioned by the Obama campaign. This led *The Guardian's* Laura Barton to proclaim that the image "acquired the kind of instant recognition of Jim Fitzpatrick's Che Guevara poster, and is surely set to grace T-shirts, coffee mugs and the walls of student bedrooms in the years to come."<sup>[3]</sup>

In January 2009, after Obama had won the election, Fairey's mixed-media stenciled portrait version of the image was acquired by the Smithsonian Institution for its National Portrait Gallery. Later in January 2009, the photograph on which Fairey based the poster was revealed: an April 2006 shot by former Associated Press freelance photographer Mannie Garcia. In response to claims by the Associated Press for compensation, Fairey sued for a declaratory judgment that his poster was a fair use of the original photograph. The parties settled out of court in January 2011, with details of the settlement remaining confidential.

On February 24, 2012, Fairey pleaded guilty in a New York federal court to destroying and fabricating documents during his legal battle with the Associated Press. Fairey had sued the news service in 2009 after it claimed that the famous poster was based on one of its photos. Fairey claimed that he used a different photograph for the poster. But he admitted that, in fact, he was wrong and tried to hide the error by destroying documents and manufacturing others, which is the source of the one count of criminal contempt to which he pleaded guilty. Fairey could face six months in prison, a year of supervised release and a \$5,000 fine. He will be sentenced in July.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Concept and design

Shepard Fairey, who had created earlier political street art critical of government and of George W. Bush, discussed the nascent Obama campaign with publicist Yosi Sergant in late October 2007. Sergant suggested Fairey create some art in support of Obama. Sergant contacted the Obama campaign to seek its permission for Fairey to design an Obama poster, which was granted a few weeks before Super Tuesday. Fairey found a photograph of Obama using Google Image Search (eventually revealed to be an April 2006 photo by freelancer Mannie Garcia for The Associated Press)<sup>[5][6]</sup> and created the original poster design in a single day. The original image had the word "progress" and featured Fairey's signature obey star—a symbol associated with his Andre the Giant Has a Posse street art campaign—embedded in the Obama campaign's sunrise logo.<sup>[7]</sup>

According to design writer Steven Heller, the poster was inspired by Social Realism and, while widely praised as original and unique, can be seen as part of a long tradition of contemporary artists drawing inspiration from political candidates and producing "posters that break the mold not only in terms of color and style but also in message and tone."<sup>[8]</sup>

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