

English 95

Essay #2

Essay Length: Complete, well-developed first draft

Choose one of the topics below and write an essay that responds to it.

Choice One: In the story "Nobody Knows," Sherwood Anderson questions the hypocrisy of our different expectations of men and women. Tell about a time when your gender affected how you were treated by someone else or about a time when your treatment of someone else was affected by that person's gender. This could be either a positive or a negative treatment, and should include the expectations that the person had of you, or the expectations that you had of them. Be sure to use specific examples from your own experience to illustrate and support your discussion. Also, explain how this experience affected you, and what you learned from it, especially regarding how men and women are treated in our society.

Choice Two: In the story "Nobody Knows," Sherwood Anderson is sharply critical of the way in which George uses Louise, and yet all of us have probably been guilty at one time or another of using or manipulating someone else for our own gain. Tell about a time when you used or manipulated someone for your own gain, or tell about a time when you were used or manipulated by someone for their own gain. Be sure to give background information about the relationship that existed between you and the other person. Also be sure to describe what happened when the used person realized that he or she was being used. Explain how this affected the relationship, and what you learned from it.

Instructions

1. Read the topic a couple of times and note what it requires you to do. Complete all the tasks of the assignment.
2. Take time to plan and organize your essay before you begin to write. (Scratch outlines are often quite helpful.)
3. Be sure to start with a clear main idea. (In other words, make sure you can answer this question: "What is the main point I want my readers to understand?")
4. Make sure that you support or illustrate general points with specific examples and vivid details from your own experience and from the text (when appropriate).
5. Allow yourself enough time after writing to go back over your essay, check for errors or omissions, and make any necessary corrections.