

English 96

Essay #3: Rodriguez' "Aria: Memoir of a Bilingual Education"

Essay Length: 500-750 words (2-4 handwritten pages)

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

Choice One (for people who did not speak English as their first language): Write an essay in which you compare your experience of learning to communicate in English with Richard Rodriguez' experience, and then explain how the process of learning this language and the knowledge of this language has affected your life so far. (Again, remember that the effects can, of course, be positive, negative, or a combination of both—just be honest and be sure to give lots of details from your own experience as well as from Rodriguez' essay.)

Choice Two: Write an essay in which you compare your opinion of bilingual education with Richard Rodriguez' opinion. Be sure to discuss in detail the reasons for both your belief and that of Rodriguez, and give examples to support those reasons. Remember to use lots of specific detail from your own experience as well as from Rodriguez' essay.

General Hints

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.