

Engl 96IQ, Fall 2009: Board Games (MUSE)
Second Essay Assignment: Due October 6

Topic: Game theory. What makes a game challenging, enjoyable, or just plain fun? Write a short essay (500 words, or two typed and double-spaced pages) in which you answer any part of that question, using examples from the games we have covered so far in class, and offering quotations from at least two sources on “game theory.” You’ll need to find those sources in the library full-text databases, and at least one of them must be academic in nature (and “peer-reviewed”). Since you only have two pages, be sure not to waste time on generalizations, vague descriptions, or long quotations—come right to the point you want to make (that is, identify your thesis and explain it), then support it with examples from the games and short quotations from your sources.

In drafting your essay, focus on a limited aspect of your topic; define or describe the concepts necessary for a full understanding of your particular approach; and construct a developed thesis explaining the significance of that aspect. In your essay, the thesis should contain the *specific point to be proved*, and your paragraphs should all work toward proving it. To support your readings and to make your analysis clear, you will need to quote short passages from the texts (your game-theory sources from the library databases), integrated into your own prose, which relate to the central scenes or themes of your essay. Please cite the page number for each quotation or group of quotations parenthetically at the end of the phrase or sentence, and avoid using long, indented quotations. Using shorter quotations makes it easier to establish how you are reading the passage, through discussion and analysis, as well as how you are employing that reading in supporting the thesis of your essay. Revise for content and to strengthen your thesis and transitions; proofread thoroughly, even if you use a spell-checker first; and follow either MLA or APA style (depending on your major), including a Works Cited list at the end. Be sure to cite your sources according to the same format (APA or MLA), list them in the Works Cited, and *never* assume a web page is a reliable source without investigating the information further.

As with your first essay, you will need to submit electronic copies of your essay on both Blackboard (at sjsu6.blackboard.com) and Turnitin.com (at www.turnitin.com). Please double-space your essay, do not use a cover page (but put your name at the top of the first page), follow standard MLA or APA format, and submit your essay online only by the beginning of class on the day it is due. Submit your essay as an attachment only, in either doc (Word) or rtf format; all word processors can produce rtf (Rich Text Format) files – if you need help saving your file in rtf in some program other than Word, please ask at the Help Desk or Peer Mentor Center on the ground floor of Clark. Late work can only be submitted to either site by prior arrangement, and there will be a significant delay in its marking and return. Do not email or leave at my office any work for this class, unless I specifically ask you to do so. Corrected papers will be returned online in pdf format. Please keep a copy of all work submitted on disk, and retain all graded work returned until the end of the semester. Please note that many people find it harder to proofread work on a computer screen than in printed form, so you may want to print out your final draft and make corrections to that, before submitting the finished file online. Also note that the file name for any work you are submitting should begin with your last name, first name, course number, and assignment name: for example, “Smith_John_Essay2.doc.” Finally, remember that I will also be keeping a copy of your marked work during the semester so that, when you submit this essay, I will begin by reviewing the technical mistakes you made in the first one, and looking to see if you have made any progress in those areas on the second. You, too, should take the time to review those errors, and improve your writing on the second essay—you know I will be checking.