

SHORT ESSAY 1

The Gist:

In the initial weeks of the semester, we have explored how contemporary Chicana/o identities took shape through history, language, generational conflicts, and expressions of cultural nationalism. **In your view, which creative work discussed so far has explored these issues most powerfully?** Select one and explain why you chose it over the others.

In response to this prompt, you should strive to do two things:

1. Practice your beginning literary analysis skills by pointing to key descriptions, metaphors, word choices, etc., that relate to the themes listed above.
2. Draw on those selected details to explain your argument about the power of the reading you selected. Though you are free to draw on insights gleaned from our class discussions, you should aim to make them your own by:
 - a. Elaborating on them and putting them into conversation with other details/points that we did not discuss together; and
 - b. Making connections between your understanding of the creative piece and the background readings that provided some context (D. Gutierrez, R. Gutierrez, Anzaldúa, El Plan).

Readings to choose from include:

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| ❖ Paredes, "The Mexico-Texan" | ❖ Griest, "Legacies" |
| ❖ Suarez, "El Hoyo," "Maestría," "Kid Zopilote" | ❖ Gonzalez, "I Am Joaquin" |
| ❖ Serros, "Mi Problema" | ❖ La Chrisx, "La Loca de la Raza Cósmica" |

Other Essential Information

- 3 pages in length
- 10% of overall grade
- **Due Date: Wednesday, February 25**
- Your work must be
 - Formatted with 1" margins all around
 - Double-spaced
 - Printed in 12-point Times New Roman
 - Numbered on all pages
 - Stapled before you turn it in
 - Spell-checked
 - Carefully edited and proof-read
 - Follow MLA formatting (for guidelines, see the link to Purdue's Online Writing Lab posted on our course website)