

## SHORT ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

### **Description**

MAS 74 isn't like any other public speaking course. One thing that differentiates it from similar courses in other departments is the fact that we will try to connect our speeches to current topics and issues that impact Mexican American communities. Yet some of us in this course might not be sure what such topics and issues are—and that's okay. I am here to help you figure out how to connect your personal interests to our Mexican American theme. However, I'll need some insights into you in order to do that.

Thus, your first writing assignment this semester is to write a first-person, autobiographical essay. In this 3-4 page paper, answer the following question:

### **What issues, topics and/or current events matter to you, and why?**

Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers. As a result, you will be graded not on what you say, but rather on how you say it, i.e. the strength and clarity of your writing style and grammar.

One thing to keep in mind: Make an effort to transition between the topics you raise—that is, please don't jump directly from "I'm passionate about the Lord of the Rings trilogy" to "I love a good pepperoni pizza" without trying to create some kind of link between these statements.

### **Essential Information**

- **Due Date: 1:30pm on Monday, September 8**
- 3 – 4 pages in length
- 5% of your overall grade
- Your work must be
  - Formatted with 1" margins all around
  - Double-spaced
  - Printed in 12-point Times New Roman
  - Numbered on all pages
  - Spell-checked
  - Carefully edited and proof-read
  - Stapled *before* you get to class
  - Note: You do not need a cover sheet for your essay. Instead, in the top left corner list your name, the date, the class and section, and the professor's name, like so:

Firstname Lastname  
8 September 2014  
MAS 74 (Section 04)  
Prof. Barrera