

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT #2 DEFINITION AS A WRITING STRATEGY

- **WHAT WE'RE DOING:** From your work on vocabulary this semester, you understand dictionary definitions of words and phrases. Such definitions are usually concise, although definitions/explanations of idioms and concepts can “Tell a story” about how words and idioms came into our language.

Writing an extended definition may develop into a paragraph or even an essay. In this assignment, you may be using definition to explain, to inform, or to persuade. You might be writing to show the special qualities of a person, place or situation. You may wish to study and describe qualities or traits which make a person or thing different or special.

A certain amount of analysis and use of examples will be necessary. What does he/she/it do? What is he/she/it like? You may find yourself using narration, process analysis, comparison and contrast or argumentation to explain your thesis or main idea. If presenting an argument from definition, you will probably find you are arguing for something.

- **THE CHOICES:**
 1. For this assignment, you will choose one (1) item from pp. 475-476 in our text. Take time to examine the six choices and to choose one which appeals to you. Is one choice simpler or easier? Is one choice a challenge?
 2. Write a definition essay to describe a specific celebrity or personality in entertainment, sports, business or another field. What makes the person unique? Successful? Likeable (or not)? You may need to do some research to locate magazine articles or information about this person. You may choose to describe a non-celebrity, perhaps a friend or relative. What makes him/her “tick”? What helps to illustrate the person’s qualities/traits?

CHOOSE ONE (1.) OR TWO (2.)

For any choice, be sure to explain defining characteristics, as well as why your subject attracted you in the first place.

* Length: 1 ½ - 2 ½ pages.

Due: October 8, 2007

* Please supply 1 – 2 photocopies (extra) for a peer evaluation, which we will use in class.

* If you choose to write about something very personal or emotional for you, remember that this is often difficult to do. Remember that this writing will be read/evaluated by your classmates.