

Paragraphs and Essays

with Integrated Readings

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The most frequently expressed complaint men have about women is that women are always trying to change them. When a woman loves a man she feels responsible to assist him in growing and tries to help him improve the way he does things. She forms a home-improvement committee, and he becomes her primary focus.

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The Hispanic macho is manly, responsible, hardworking, a man in charge, a patriarch. A man who expresses strength through silence.

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I could not help noticing a sign in the bar area: “This is not Burger King. You don’t get it your way. You get it my way, or you don’t get a damn thing.” In an establishment that is supposed to be in the hospitality business, this is a bad joke.

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My mother is the best example of a hero I can think of. No one will read about her in a book about heroes, but in her small circle of friends, her traits of heroism are well-known.

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Four factors stand out and make my choice easy: he was good looking, he could sing, he had style, and he influenced the main world of popular music, which we call “rock ‘n’ roll.”

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On a field trip, we visited a local airport and went up into the control tower to watch landings and take-offs. I was fascinated by the way tower operators directed traffic.

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Now take up the classic ice-cream-cone-eating stance: feet from one to two feet apart, body bent forward from the waist at a twenty-five-degree angle, right elbow well up, right forearm horizontal, at a level with your collarbone and about twelve inches from it.

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The Flame Hair Tattoo is finished. The client’s head is “permanently” ablaze with flames from temple to temple, moving upward from the hairline and across the top of the head.

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The legacies that parents and church and teachers left to my generation of Black children were priceless but not material: a living faith reflected in daily service, the discipline of hard work and stick-to-it-ness, and a capacity to struggle in the face of adversity.

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*“You always look at other women,” Frances said. “Everywhere. Every damned place we go.”
“No, darling,” Michael said, “I look at everything. God gave me eyes and I . . .”*

Views on Violence 237

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Yet why not a ghetto defense? After all, if a Vietnam veteran can claim PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] from the shock of war, why shouldn't a similar defense be available for a young black reared in the embattled precincts of Bed-Stuy [Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of New York City]? Sounds sensible, no? Isn't a ghetto like a battlefield?

Judy Scheindlin and Josh Getlin, “Enough Is Enough” 242

Tito was very close to his brother, the boy's lawyer insists, and his crime was a result of post-traumatic stress. “You'll have to do better than that,” I snap.

Student Essay 244

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I figured out it would be better to be hit with a flying object than to be pounded, so I learned to move toward whatever he threw. He never seemed to catch on.

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“We think you would benefit from our work-study program,” he said to me. He was not my high school counselor, and I wasn't 18.

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It is during this phase of the incident that the doctor joins the struggle at her level. As he admits, “But now I also had grown furious—at a child. I tried to hold myself down but I couldn't.”

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Achieving consummate love . . . is like trying to lose weight, difficult but not impossible.

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When invited to design a home, I first like to know what kind of dwellers my clients are. In our first meeting, I ask them to take me on a guided tour of their current residence and describe how each room is used—when and by whom.

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Naggers tend to fall into four categories—friendly, professional, social, and domestic—that range from the socially acceptable to the toxic.

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I can figure out doctors’ motives [for becoming doctors] by their symptoms, by which I mean behavior.

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*Many gender barriers of the past have been broken down, and the colors have somewhat blended together. Nevertheless, **sexism**—prejudice and discrimination based on a person’s gender—still exists. Indeed, it begins with the fact that sex is the most conspicuous social category we use to identify ourselves and others.*

Richard Rodriguez, “Public and Private” 288

For me there were none of the gradations between public and private society so normal to a maturing child. Outside the house was public society; inside the house was private.

Charles Prebish, “Heavenly Father, Divine Goalie” 290

In How We Play the Game, Richard Lipsky tells us (of baseball), “The game takes place in an atmosphere of piety. In many ways the ballplayers themselves can be seen as priests who represent us in a liturgy (game) that is part of a sacred tradition.”

Essays 290**Kathy Shaskan, “Chick Flicks vs. Macho Movies: Can You Tell the Difference?” 290**

A chick flick always includes child actors so they can add humanity and warmth to the story. A macho movie includes child actors so they can be kidnapped and add suspense to the story.

Bharati Mukherjee, “Two Ways to Belong in America” 292

This is a tale of two sisters from Calcutta, Mira and Bharati, who have lived in the United States for some 35 years, but who find themselves on different sides in the current debate over the status of immigrants. I am an American citizen and she is not.

Suzanne Britt, “Neat People vs. Sloppy People” 295

I’ve finally figured out the difference between neat people and sloppy people. The distinction is, as always, moral. Neat people are lazier and meaner than sloppy people.

Student Paragraph and Essays 298**Thung Tran, “Wives and Mothers in Vietnam and in America”****[with stages] 299**

In Vietnam, a young girl is educated in Confucian theories: “Obey your father as a child, and your husband when you get married.”

Reading-Based Writing 300**Lydia Hsiao, “Struggling Against Silence” 300**

In the same way Kingston allowed silence to “[paint] layers of black over [her life]” . . . , silence continued to create a thicker darkness in my life. It first embarrassed me; then it soon robbed me of my self-esteem.

Career-Related Writing: Business Comparison and Contrast 302**Daphne Lee, “A Fast-Food Face-Off” 302**

Studying Wendy’s menu, I found that, although many of the items are similar to those of McDonald’s, Wendy’s provides a wider selection, including some foods that wouldn’t be considered fast.

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Burnout is a general feeling of exhaustion that develops when a person simultaneously experiences too much pressure and has too few sources of satisfaction.

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Bullying behavior may be “verbal (e.g., name-calling, threats), physical (e.g., hitting), or psychological (e.g., rumors, shunning/exclusion).” . . . With a definition like that, the total of children involved in either bullying or being bullied themselves ought to be around 100 percent.

Janet Pearson, “Whose Values?” 323

If polls are to be believed, there is no one set of traditional American values anymore, if there ever was. The traditional, nuclear American family, along with its accompanying values, has become an elusive species, and taking its place is a new animal.

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As property values decline and law-abiding citizens with resources move, once-thriving neighborhoods can quickly degrade into dangerous places. Thus, the seemingly trivial offense of graffiti ultimately can have devastating consequences for a community.

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People who love well may be tender and sensitive and attentive, but extremists are possessive or smothering.

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“This is going to be a bad one,” I told myself as I shut off the lights, took my medication, lay down, and prepared for the inevitable—the relentless throbbing in my temple.

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Since we’re throwing around radical ideas about abortion rights, let me raise this question: If abortion is to remain legal and relatively unrestricted—and I believe it should—why shouldn’t men have the right during at least the first trimester of pregnancy to terminate their legal and financial rights and responsibilities to the child?

Camille Paglia, “Rape and Modern Sex War” 353

College men are at their hormonal peak. They have just left their mothers and are questing for their male identity. In groups, they are dangerous. A woman going to a fraternity party is walking into Testosterone Flats, full of prickly cacti and blazing guns.

Suzanne Fields, “Let Granny Drive If She Can” 357

Age doesn’t necessarily prove anything. Slower reflexes or not, senior citizens are much better drivers than, for example, teenagers.

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A doctor administered a drug and she died. It was a hidden, secret act.

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Instead of dealing with issues of sex education and personal counseling in a thoughtful way, he resorts to argumentum ad hominem. Educators are the “anointed,” and the “zealots” . . . who “carry on unrelenting guerilla warfare against the traditional values of society. . . .”

Career-Related Writing: Proposal 362**Roberto Bentancourt, “Mandatory Tipping at BoBo’s” 363**

Many of our customers eat light, drink as much as they can get with refills, and leave without tipping. That creates several problems.

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The zoo of the future will almost surely be a projection of the contemporary model, one that teaches, conserves, explores, experiments, and, yes, even entertains.

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