

Writing and Social Issues

Essay 2 (worth 10% of course grade)

Write an approximately 1,000-word essay that discusses what Patria Park's novel, *Re Jane*, implies and/or asks about one or more of the following themes:

- immigrant experience
- straddling two cultures
- gender roles
- other societal expectations
- identity
- belonging
- coming of age
- mentoring
- love
- family
- friendship
- freedom
- forgiveness
- home.

Many of these themes are interrelated, and there are likely themes that I've neglected to list. Feel free to write about any theme that interests in you Park's novel. My list is simply intended to spark your thinking.

The main goal of your essay is to help your classmates (and maybe other members of the MMU community) better understand and appreciate Park's novel.

A paper draft is due in class on Thursday Sept. 26, when you'll give each other feedback on how best to revise.

Your final draft is due in a Brightspace Dropbox Thursday October 3. Please also submit paper copies of your draft (with your classmates' comments), and please write a brief description of what you did when you revised. In other words, let me know what content you added, deleted, clarified, or rearranged. I'd also love to know about any work you did at the sentence level—any new editing strategies you tried.

I'll evaluate your final draft using the rubric on the other side of this page.

Rubric for analytic essay about a text

Criteria	Description	Criterion Weight	Rating
Focus	The thesis statement is easy to locate (usually at the end of the introductory paragraph). The thesis statement is clear, and it accurately conveys the essay's content.	10	
Content	The essay is the appropriate length, and it does what the assignment asks. It includes ample explanations and examples, including direct quotation from the text.	25	
Level of Content	The writer's ideas about the text go beyond the obvious. The writer helps readers better understand and appreciate the text and its complexities.	10	
Organization: Overall	The essay's ideas are easy to follow. Its organization suits its content. For example, the essay moves from shorter and simpler ideas to longer and more complex ones. If need be, the writer has gone beyond the traditional "five-paragraph" essay.	10	
Organization: topic sentences	With the rare exception of short transitional paragraphs, topic sentences appear at the beginning of each body paragraph. Topic sentences echo key concepts in the thesis. Topic sentences are clear, and they accurately convey their paragraph's content. They also serve as transitions , helping readers move from one idea to the next.	10	
Organization: intro	The opening grabs the readers' attention and prepares us for the thesis statement.	5	
Organization: conclusion	The ending provides a strong sense of closure via a vivid image, strong emotion, or food for thought. It conveys the " so what? " of the essay. It let us know why the essay matters.	5	
Grammar & Mechanics	The prose is free of distracting errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.	10	
Style	The prose is a pleasure to read: clear, concise, and colorful. Sentence structure and length are effectively varied. The essay's tone complements its content.	5	
Documentation of sources	The essay includes in-text citations and a bibliographic entry that uses proper APA Style .	5	
Engagement with writing process	The final draft reveals that the writer has made thoughtful use of feedback to revise and strengthen the essay.	5	
Total		100	