

## **Exercise 1: Diagnostic Essay**

Choose one of the provided topics and create a 300-500 word expository paper.

DUE: Tuesday night at 12:00 midnight, in Turnitin.com before class

### **TOPICS**

- What is necessary to create an ideal community?
- What is a utopia?
- What causes individuals to isolate themselves from a community?
- Why do communities often isolate or exile individuals from within their ranks?
- How you would describe your cultural heritage?

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. Isolate a strong thesis statement.
2. Remember you want to feature your topic throughout the essay.  
Each paragraph must defend your main focus. Be sure to support the thesis with detailed personal observations.
3. When writing the first draft, be sure resulting paragraphs include topic sentences relating to your thesis.
4. Create an interesting, intricate introduction which clearly shows the focus of your essay and leads the reader into subsequent paragraphs.
5. Be sure each new paragraph includes a strong transitional phrase.
6. Use five or more sentences per paragraph.
7. Use the MLA model outlined in *Bedford*, pp. 656-661 / *RfW*, pp. 527-532.
8. Avoid clichéd writing, contractions, and expected response.
9. Show me how to construct a high-end academic paper.
10. *Be sure to proof your work.*