

Study Questions for “A Case for the Demotion of Beauty”

The prompt to review the following questions appears on p. 157 of *Acting on Words*.

1. Does Leonard establish a controlling idea in her opening paragraph? If so, in your own words, what is her controlling idea?
2. Is Leonard’s tone and use of first person successful or inappropriate? What factors should we consider in replying to that question?
3. See the definition of “irony” given in “Literary and Film Analysis” (Chapter 15, website). Also, look up the term “satire” in the dictionary, if you are unsure of its meaning. Discuss how Leonard uses irony and possible satirical strokes as part of her persuasive method.

Practice

1. Can you envision a sketch outline of this essay, similar to those shown in Chapters 6 and 9? Try making up such an outline for Leonard’s essay; discuss your work with classmates and your instructor.
2. In your sketch outline, be sure you note clearly where the writer deals with effects and where she deals with causes.