

First-Year Writing (Honors), Fall 2017  
**Unit One Guidelines**

**Length:** 1500+ words (not including the works-cited page)

**Citation and formatting:** MLA

**DRAFT DUE Wednesday, September 20 at the beginning of class.**

1. Save as a Word document, using the filename *Yourlastname\_P1draft*.
2. Submit through Bb discussion board.
  - a. Select *Project 1 Drafts* forum → Click *Create Thread* → Use message title: *Yourlastname P1 draft*.
  - b. In the body of the message, state your essay's topic
  - c. Attach the Word document version of your draft to the message.
3. Bring two printed, stapled copies to class.

**PEER REVIEWS of two classmates' papers DUE Friday, September 22 at the beginning of class.**

For each peer review:

1. Save as a new Word document, using the filename *Yourlastname\_PR\_Theirlastname\_P1draft*
2. Submit through the Bb discussion board.
  - a. Access the draft's original thread on the *Project 1 Drafts* forum → Click *Reply*
  - b. Attach the Word document version of your peer review to the message.

**FINAL DRAFT DUE Wednesday, September 27 at the beginning of class.**

1. Save as a Word document, using the filename *Yourlastname\_P1final*.
2. Submit through the Bb *Assignments* tab.
  - a. Under *Project 1 Final Draft*, click *View/Complete*.
  - b. Attach and upload the Word-document version of your final draft.

c. Confirm submission by clicking *Confirm*.

“A starred review in *Booklist* notes that ‘Biss calls our attention to things so intrinsic to our lives they have become invisible.’ ... [“The Pain Scale”] presents pain as one of the invisible things Biss wants her readers to reconsider or redefine” (Bartholomae and Petrosky, *Ways of Reading* 170).

Your assignment is to write an essay in which you, like Eula Biss, help your “readers to reconsider or redefine” one of the “things so intrinsic to our lives they have become invisible.” Your overarching goal is to critically assess how particular genres or cultural artifacts encourage particular ways of thinking.

Biss sheds light on the topic of pain by deconstructing the numbered “pain scale” commonly used by health-care professionals. By identifying shortcomings in that pain scale and considering alternative approaches for making sense of pain, Biss leaves readers with a richer understanding of her topic. She doesn’t “solve” the problem for us; she helps us to see it more clearly.

Like Biss and her pain scale, you should choose a topic closely related to a specific set of cultural artifacts or texts. The more specific the text, the easier time you’ll have finding concrete details worth unpacking. You may analyze print, audio, digital, or visual texts.

Just as Biss incorporates quotations, “facts,” and perspectives from outside sources into her writing to capture the complexity of pain, you should incorporate a range of voices that illuminate the complexity of your topic. (Be careful, however, not to let your sources overwhelm your own voice as writer.) At the end of your essay, include a works-cited page that lists your sources in MLA style.

As a class, we shall discuss strategies for planning and beginning your essays.

*A successful Unit One essay should do the following:*

- Identify and analyze an appropriate topic
- Critically assess how *at least* one genre, text, or set of texts encourages particular ways of thinking about that topic

- Suggest alternative ways of thinking about the topic
- Incorporate at least two outside sources to further illuminate the complexity of the topic
- Follow MLA formatting and citation guidelines
- Meet the assignment's length requirement
- Contain few grammatical and mechanical errors