Week Three:

\_x\_\_1. Read pages 173-177 on exemplification writing. Once again, this is for your knowledge. Take notes, highlight, etc. There’s nothing to turn in for this assignment.

\_\_x\_2. Read the exemplification stories and answer the questions that follow each story. (Copy and paste all of the questions onto a word

posting.

"My First Conk" (pages 229-232)

Discussion Board: Describe a time where you engaged in a behavior that you later came to view as unacceptable as your beliefs changed or as your social consciousness developed. What made you change your attitude toward this behavior?

1. What exactly is a conk? **A conk was a straight hairdo for African-American men.**  Why does Malcolm X want to get his hair conked?  **It was a coming of age thing to straighten out hair for black males. His hair was finally long enough to get conked.**

 2. What does the conk symbolize to him at the time he gets it? What does it symbolize at the time he writes about it? **When he first gets conked he felt pride that his hair was “as straight as any white man’s”. When he later writes about it he sees it as his “first really big step toward self-degradation”.**

3. List the materials Shorty asks Malcolm X to buy. Is the purpose of each explained? If so, where? **His recipe included Red Devil lye, two eggs, two medium-sized white potatoes, a jar of Vaseline, a large bar of soap, a large toothed comb, a fine-toothed comb, a rubber hose, a rubber apron, and a pair of gloves. Malcolm X then goes through the entire procedure of getting conked, explaining what to use at each step.**

4. Outline (number) the major stages in the procedure Malcolm X describes. Are they presented in chronological order? Which, if any, of the major stages are out of place?

1. **Make Congolene**
2. **Attach apron and apply Vaseline**
3. **Apply Conglene mixture**
4. **Wash and Rinse Several times**
5. **Comb out hair**

**The stages were in chronological order and I did not notice anything out of place except for the absence of Shorty putting on his gloves since this was not actually mentioned.**

5. Why was this selection written as a process explanation instead of as a set of instructions? **It really gives the audience a human attachment to the process versus a recipe to follow. This is especially important when he emphasizes how despite his early views on getting conked it was really a bad process.**

6. This selection has an explicitly stated thesis that makes its purpose clear. What is this thesis? **“I had joined the multitude of Negro men and women in America who are brainwashed into believing that the black people are ‘inferior’ – and white people ‘superior’- that they will even violate and mutilate their God-created bodies to try to look ‘pretty’ by white standards.”**

7. Why do you think Malcolm X includes so many references to the pain and discomfort he endured as part of the process? **He wanted to reinforce how stupid he was for trying to make himself more like whites instead of being proud of his natural hair.**

8. Only about half of this selection is devoted to the process explanation. Where does the process begin? Where does it end? **The process starts at paragraph five and continues to paragraph twenty.**

 9. In paragraphs 22-26, Malcolm X encloses several words in quotation marks,

occasionally prefacing them with the phrase so-called. What is the effect of these quotation marks?  **These were all used to help express his anger at how black people tried to fit into a white world versus being proud of their own heritage.**

10. Because this is an informal piece of writing, Malcolm X uses many colloquialisms and slang terms. Substitute a more formal word for each of the following:

bear (1) **I am assuming this is “beat” so I will go with get around** glop (6) **Mixture** sharp (26) **smart** pad (4) **home** real (6) **very** hip (26) **fashionable**

“Just Walk on By: A Black Man Ponders His Power to Alter Public Space” (p. 196)

Discussion Board: Have you ever been in a situation where you stereotyped or were stereotyped yourself? Explain. Give examples of how we stereotype in our society.

1. Define uninflammatory and bravado.

**Uninflammatory – Used in the essay to indicate the distance between him and the woman was far enough to not pose a problem. It was a safe distance and would cause any tension.**

**Bravado -**  **Showing off to indicate manliness.**

2. Staples uses the word “thug.” List as many synonyms as you can for the word.   
 What images do you envision when you hear this word?

**Criminal, thief, troublemaker, fighter. When I hear the word thug the word trouble is the first thought that comes mind.**

1. Why does Staples characterize the woman he encounters in paragraph 1 as a “victim?”

**The characterization is sarcastic to drive in the feeling he gets from the racist views he faces in Chicago.**

1. What does Staples mean when he says he has the power to “alter public space”?

**He is referring to through the preconceived notions that others have of black people he can change how people normally act in public. For example, the locking of car doors as he walks by or the changing the side of street to walk down to avoid a close pass by.**

1. Why does Staples walk the street at nights?

**Staples had insomnia so he was “stalking sleep”**

1. What things, in Staple’s opinion, contribute to “the making of a young thug” (8)? According to Staples, why are young, poor, and powerless men especially likely to become thugs? **One of the main things Staple’s contributes to “the making of a young thug” is the allure of the power of intimidation. This combined with a poor economic position seem to go hand in hand.**
2. How does Staples attempt to make himself less threatening?

**Staple’s would “move about with care, particularly late in the evening” and keep big distances between himself and other at the subway late at night. He also changed his attire to business clothing and ensure calmness with interactions with the police.**

1. What is Staple’s thesis?

**“It was in the echo of that terrified woman’s footfalls that I first began to know the unwieldy inheritance I’d come into – the ability to alter public space in ugly ways.”**

1. Does he state it or imply it?

**He directly states his thesis and then give different examples throughout the essay.**

1. Does Staples use logic, emotion, or a combination of the two to appeal to his readers?

**Staples employs a combination of emotion and logic to appeal to his readers.**

1. How appropriate, in your opinion, is this strategy?

**I think that this approach will appeal to a larger audience.**

1. What preconceptions does Staples assume his audience has? How does he challenge these preconceptions? **He assumes that they all have stereotyped black people and he tries to challenge this with his examples. He also tried to appeal to the audience’s humane side with his good boy upbringing.**
2. What is Staples trying to accomplish with his first sentence?

**Staples is almost trying sound like it is a confessional.**

1. Do you think he succeeds? Explain. **Personally, I felt that he succeeded but I think in the long run if someone is prejudiced that a simple essay will not convert them. If, however, it was someone on the fence then perhaps the essay served its purpose.**
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**This is a good because of the contrast to the situation that is later explained.**

1. Staples begins his essay with an anecdote. How effective is this strategy? Do you think another opening strategy would be more effective? Explain. **The anecdote makes it personal right off the bat and draws our attention into the writer’s world. For this essay I think that we need to know writer’s world and point of view so I think this would have been the most effective strategy.**
2. Does Staples present enough examples to support his thesis? Are they strong examples? Can you think of other examples that would be more convincing? **I guess Staples could have brought more facts into the essay but for me that would have lost the personal appeal that it had. I really ended up having an attachment to the writer from how the essay was written.**

“Why Looks are the Last Bastion of Discrimination” (p. 202)

Discussion Board: Is there ever a time when society should be allowed to discriminate based on looks? Explain. Have you ever witnessed someone being discriminated against because of their looks? Do you think it is a prominent problem in society? Explain.

1. Why, according to Rhode, are looks “the last bastion of acceptable bigotry”? **Despite all the protections that have been passed against discrimination, bias based on appearance is still allowed in all states except one, six cities and counties.**
2. Why does the government allow organizations to engage in appearance discrimination? **This is due the fact that business argues that appearance impacts the bottom line. If it does not fall into the categories of race, religion, sex, age, disability, and in some places sexual orientation it is not in the business of enforcing it.**
3. What forms of discrimination do unattractive people face? **Unattractive people are less likely to be hired and promoted; and earn lower salaries. Unattractive people might also get lower grades and not believed as intelligent.**
4. Why do some people object to banning discrimination based on appearance? How does Rhode address these objections? **Employers often attribute company image to appearance so it is job-related. It may have affect o profitability. Other objectors believe that a ban would trivialize other more serious bias.**
5. According to Rhode, how effective are laws that prohibit appearance discrimination? What positive effects might they have? **She states that the bans that have gone into effect have not produced a “barrage of loony litigations or an erosion of support for civil rights remedies generally”. Rhode’s does admit that the laws are unevenly enforced but that they can help fix the worst of abuse. At the very least, she states, that these bans can “reflect our principles of equal opportunity and raise our collective consciousness when we fall short”.**
6. Does Rhode assume that her readers are aware of the problem she discusses? How can you tell? **She does assume that her readers are aware of the problems she discusses. I could tell with her some of the statements she addresses the audiences with. For example, in paragraph three she starts off with “We all know that appearance matters”. Furthermore in paragraph she addresses her audience again by saying “We also have enough experience with prohibitions in appearance discriminations.**
7. What preconceived attitudes about attitudes about appearance does Rhode assume her readers have? **My impression was that her audience is aware of appearance based discrimination but might be on the fence with how important it may be or how effective a ban may be.**
8. Is Rhode’s purpose simply to inform her readers or to persuade them? Explain. **Going with how she closed her essay, I would have to go with a persuasive nudge to her readers. So that those on the fence might be more in tune with the problems associated with appearance based discrimination. “At the very least, such laws could reflect our principles or equal opportunity and raise our collective consciousness when we fall short.”**
9. In the first half of her essay, Rhodes gives a series of short examples. List three examples she gives of looks discrimination.

* **Nikki Youngblood – lesbian who was denied in a yearbook**
* **Jeff Biddle and Daniel Hamermesh Economic Study on unattractive people earn less.**
* **California – Portnick 240-pound aerobics instructor**
* **Texas – 1994 Obese Bus Driver**
* **New Jersey – 2005 Borgata Hotel Weight discrimination**

1. In the second half of Rhode’s essay, she addresses objections to laws banning appearance discrimination. How effectively does Rhode respond to these objections? **Rhode manages to effectively address the arguments to not ban appearance discrimination. She manages to deconstruct each major objection with examples that contradict the reason for the objections.**

“Let Steroids into the Hall of Fame” (p. 21)

Discussion Board: Chafets implies that baseball players should be allowed to use performance-enhancing drugs because everyone does it. Do you agree? Should performance-enhancing drugs be allowed in any sport? Why or why not? What penalties should be imposed on those who use performance-enhancing drugs?

1. According to Chafets, how widespread is drug abuse among professional baseball players? **Cheafets’s examples indicate that it is a widespread problem among professional baseball players. He then expands it to include baseball greats from the “dawn of baseball”.**
2. Why do players take performance-enhancing drugs?

**Baseball players use performance enhancing drugs to better perform and to better heal.**

1. What is Chafets’s response to the charge that “steroids alter the game?”

**Chafets retorts that the game has been changing in all respects since the Hall opened its doors. The fans continue to love the game however.**

1. What does Chafets mean when he says that both baseball and the Hall of Fame need to “replace mythology and spin with realism and honesty (11)?”

**What I got from this is that where there is a will there is a way. There will always be new drugs that might not be detectable. Basically, as Chafets puts it, level the field so everyone can know what is going on.**

1. What is Chafets’s response to the charge that if it allowed players to use performance-enhancing drugs, the Baseball Hall of Fame would set a bad example for children-especially young athletes?

**Chefets’s retort is that the players are not children but adults in “a very stressful and competitive profession”. The decision should rest with the players themselves.**

1. Is this essay aimed primarily at baseball fans, or does Chafets have a wider audience in mind? Explain. **I really think that the aim was above just baseball fans and included an audience of progressive thinkers; included people that don’t want to “to turn back the clock to some imagined golden era”. He was just picking his battle to argue against “Obscurity”.**
2. Why does Chafets believe he must defend the use of performance enhancing drugs? What preconceptions does he think his readers have? **He sums it all up with his closing paragraph that if this battle is not won then “it will suffer the fate of all battlefields located on the wrong side of history. Obscurity.”**
3. Does Chafets include enough examples to support his thesis? Does he present a fair range of examples, or does he seem to be “stacking the deck” in favor of his position? Can you think of arguments either for or against his position that he fails to mention? **I believe that Chafets’s should have challenged some of larger concerns with performance enhancing drugs such as the negative health effects that they may have. Besides this I really think that his arguments were not necessarily stacked in his favor. Within the context of when this is written, the number of players using enhancing drugs was large and most of the fans knew this and accepted it. The reaction from the players and the fans was more of a fear of big brother and/or micro-management of their lives and pastimes.**
4. What points does Chafets emphasize in his conclusion? How does his conclusion help him reinforce his essay’s main idea? **Chafets emphasizes that players should be able to govern their own bodies and not succumb to the “moralists”.**
5. In paragraph 7, Chafets refers to those who oppose his ideas as *purists.* What is a *purist*? Do you think this characterization is fair? Do you think this assumption is accurate? **Within the context of this essay, a “purist” would be someone that wants to keep the baseball as close to the original game as possible. I believe that the use of the word is in fact fair to address the main opponents of steroids, however, I would also say that the opponents are less concerned about keeping baseball pure and more at preventing steroid use.**

“The Ways We Lie” (attached)

Discussion Board: Ericsson says we all lie. After reading this essay, I must say I agree and after some consideration, I’ve discovered several types of lies I tell (often without realizing I’m lying). Which types of lies are you guilty of telling and why do you tell them? What are your thoughts about lying after reading this essay?

1. According to Ericsson, what basic characteristics do all lies have in common? **Lies are meant to deceive and/or give a false impression.** How and how well do the kinds of lies she lists fit the basic definition? **All the lies she listed fit either into deceit or false impressions.**
2. Ericsson classifies lies into ten different categories. Which kinds of lies does she herself admit to committing? **She admits to functional lies, “small falsehoods”, but still thought of herself as an honest person.** Who does she say commits the other kinds? **Those who live the lies are the real problem.**
3. Some kinds of lies, says Ericsson are more serious than others. What kinds does she find least harmful? **The kind of lies that are more functional are least harmful. These types of lies are the white lie the facades, the lies that “embellish, hedge, and omit to lubricate the daily machinery of living”.** Which kinds do the most damage in her view? How? **The lies that cause one to live a lie are more dangerous. Dismissal and ignoring the plain facts are example of this kind of lie. With dismissal you ignore the true feelings of someone. This can be traced to the route of a lot of mental illness according to Ericsson. With ignoring the plain facts, you set out to deceive and this can have horrible repercussions like the case of the Catholic priest she used as an example.**
4. Why can’t Ericsson get more worked up about “out-and-out” (or “bald-faced”) lies? **These types of lies don’t toy with perceptions and can be easily confronted.**
5. “We lie,” says Ericsson. “We all do” Do you agree? Why or why not? **I would like to say that there is some example of people that don’t lie but with the explanation and example that are laid out by Ericsson, I really think that deep down we all lie to some extent.**
6. Why is Ericsson classifying lies in this essay? Where does she state her main point in doing so most directly? **She wants to let the masses know that they all lie in one way or another and not to get lost with the smaller, more trivial lies and be worried about the big offenders**
7. Ericsson warns against stereotyping in paragraphs 20-21. On what basis does she object to stereotypes? Ericsson admits to stereotyping. Give the example of when she stereotypes. **She says that stereotyping can take a “single tree and make it a landscape”. She admitted to a group that she “had a mouth like a truck driver”. A truck driver then stood up and said he was one to which she was humbled.**
8. Can you think of a time where you stereotyped or were stereotyped? **Having moved to a small town in North Carolina from a big city in Canada, I was stereotyped the moment I set foot in the town.**

1. Do you consider “white lies” to be acceptable at times? If not, why? If so, when are they acceptable? **I do consider “white lies” to be acceptable because I am one who tries to avoid confrontation on little trivial matters. If the “white lies” prevents a larger pain then I think they are sometimes acceptable.**

1. How can lying be committed in silence? **By not telling someone something then it may be considered omittance of fact. It can also be a form of delusion if it is not addressed like in the case of substance abuse. Silence can be a form of deflection in my opinion.**