

Definition Essay on Twenty First Century Dating Advice

Due Dates: **First Draft (3 pages):** Thursday April 4 at 9:30am

Final Full Draft: Tuesday April 9 at 9:35am

Length – 5-6 pages, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font

Citation Format – MLA

Upload Format – Google Docs

Grading – 20% of your final grade

A definition essay goes beyond just a dictionary definition of a word. Dictionary definitions usually define a word or concept using only one sentence, and they rarely place the word in context. The purpose of a definition essay is to critically examine the social, historical, and theoretical usage of a particular word or concept that relates to dating or relationship advice. A definition essay demonstrates a detailed account of the writer's opinion of a word or concept, and the writer utilizes credible examples, details, personal experiences, descriptions, and analysis to support their opinion.

For this course, your definition essay must focus on a specific dating or relationship concept. Although you will discuss the positive aspects of your word, you will also address any misconceptions that outsiders have about your word, as well as any arguments or disagreements that occur within your subculture. For example, if you chose incels, people within the incel subculture disagree on whether or not someone is born an incel or becomes one due to their environment.

Requirements:

Introduction (1 paragraph)

- The introduction will provide an overview of your topic. You will provide the historical and social context that your audience will need to understand the definition you are writing about.
 - For example, if you were writing about hipsters and dating, you would provide the social and historical background behind the concept of hipsters. When did the term first appear in American culture? What are the differences between the historical usage of the term and the contemporary usage of it?
 - The purpose of the introduction is to captivate your reader and make her want to continue reading the rest of the essay. You can use anecdotes to start your essay, and you can insert your personal opinion here.

Thesis Statement (1 sentence, at the end of the introduction)

- Your thesis statement will succinctly define the word that is the focal point of your essay.

- Be specific. Your thesis statement should not say “A lot of people have misconceptions about incels and my essay will address those misconceptions,” nor should your thesis statement use a dictionary definition to define your word.

Body Section (4-5 pages)

- In the body section, you will utilize different forms of evidence to support your thesis statement about the American subculture you chose. You can utilize the following forms of evidence:
 - Anecdotes
 - Data and Statistics
 - Personal Experience
 - Recent News Events
 - Scholarly Journal Articles

Conclusion (1 paragraph)

- The conclusion will summarize your essay, as well as leave your reader with food for thought. After your reader finishes your essay, what do you want them to learn? What is the essay’s takeaway message? Why is your essay important?

Other requirements:

Sources:

- **You need to consult and cite at least 4 credible sources when constructing your essay. At least 1 of those sources must come from a peer reviewed, scholarly journal.**

Avoiding Strawman Arguments:

- Avoid making broad generalizations about “everyone” and “people.” Instead, make references to *specific* people.

Possible Topics:

- Incels
- Femcels
- Manosphere
- Red Pill
- Pansexual
- Swingers
- Situationship
- Friends with benefits
- Chad

	Exceeds Expectations (10)	Meets Expectations (7-9)	Approaching Expectations (4-6)	Incomplete (0-3)
Provides strong social and historical background about topic				
Contains a thesis statement that provides a strong and clear definition of the word or concept				
Incorporates legitimate sources that strengthen the definition				
Provides strong and relevant anecdotes/personal experiences that enhance the definition				
Contains a personal voice				

Avoids using broad generalizations such as “everyone in American society does this” or “since the dawn of time...”				
Uses correct MLA format				

Total: ____/70 points

Peer Review: ____/30 points

Definition Essay Total: ____/100