

## **Assignment #2 – Writing an Evaluation Essay**

For this assignment you will write an evaluation on a song of your choice. The subject that you explore should be something that you can evaluate in order to form a strong and clear thesis that will both focus and shape your essay.

Your judgment should be *clearly expressed in a specific thesis* and that thesis, or central argument, should meet three criteria:

1. it should be clear and unambiguous
2. it should be appropriately qualified
3. And finally....it *should be arguable*.

We will discuss these standards in class, and we will look at the sample essays in the book and at some sample student essays that I will hand out. Remember to keep the word *reasonable* in mind as you write. This does not mean that you cannot use emotional appeals. In fact, drawing on an audience's emotions can be one of the most effective ways to show your reader what you mean. Make sure your reasons for your overall judgment are presented clearly, and that you are working with standards that your readers will accept. For example, standards for judging a song may refer to the quality of the music but may not include the notion that the song's content has to be fully understandable. In choosing your song, *keep in mind the religious affiliation of this institution, and refrain from evaluating material that contains excessive profanity or inappropriate subject matter*.

Remember, the more complexity you confront, the sharper and more unusual your argument can be. Choose a subject in which you can find enough depth to provide a full analysis and evaluation.

As always, consult the assigned readings for helpful direction and examples. Pages **419-428** in your text are especially useful. We will talk about other portions of the text in class and we will look at some sample papers.

I am looking for essays that use vivid, descriptive language and captivate me. Remember, *careful consideration should be given to punctuation, grammar, and spelling!*

**Length:** 3 ½ to 4 double spaced pages minimum. No more than 5 or 6 pages.

**Draft Due Date:** Any time during the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> – March 30<sup>th</sup>. You should visit the writing center to have a tutor peer review your essay, and they will furnish me with proof of this visit. In addition, you may email me a rough draft for critique at any time up to the due date on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Revision Due Date:** Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup> by 6PM via MOODLE. All essays should be uploaded in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx)