

Part 5. First-Year Composition Class Paper Assignment Using Citations from a Shared Text

Paper #2--Patricia Limerick's "Haunted America"

OBJECTIVE: After having read Limerick's "Haunted America," we'll engage in a conversation with Limerick on a topic selected from below or a topic you create yourself. We might respond to Limerick's ideas, or use her writing as a framework for our own story. We'll pay special attention to bringing Limerick's own voice into our paper by *including quotations*. See Everyday Writer (MLA Documentation section) for conventions on formatting quotations. We'll also discuss quotations in class.

REQUIREMENTS: The paper needs to be about 3-4 pages long and should center around a central question, opinion, or argument. Be sure to consult the "Style Sheet" (see Blackboard "Assignments") for basic paper formatting instructions and writing conventions.

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AS THE STARTING POINT FOR YOUR PAPER:

1. Evaluate the usefulness of Limerick's "patterns." Can they be applied to other historical eras and events in American history? Does she or doesn't she help us understand and process history as it happened and is currently

happening? You may want to do some research for this answer. You can use the Internet so long as you choose sites that are credible. A good database to use is Expanded Academic which is available in "Research Databases" through the Carrier Home Page. In responding to this question, you don't have to cover all of the patterns. You can select those that interest you most.

2. Compare historical inquiry in Limerick's and Wideman's essays. What commonalities do they seem to share? Commonalities might be expressed in the problems with knowing what happened in the past (public and personal), evaluating historical accounts, writing history, learning from it, etc.

3. Limerick argues that we should apply our own day's morality when judging actions in the past. Engage with this idea. Do you agree, disagree, or both? Find examples of actions carried out in American history and evaluate them using a moral standpoint.

4. Using Jennifer Karey's essay as inspiration, write your own history of an event that occurred in your own hometown or in a place of importance to you. You may want to do some research for this answer. You can use the Internet so long as you choose sites that are credible. A good database to use is Expanded Academic which is available in "Research Databases" through the Carrier Home Page.

GRADING OF FINAL PAPER

Content 75 %

Strong, consistent central idea

Effective use of quotations

Specific details, examples

Original ideas

Overall clarity

Follows assignment requirements

Substantial revision of first draft

Format 25 %

Paper structure

Paragraphing

Sentence structure

Grammar/mechanics

Follows directions on Style Sheet