
ESSAY 1

The Placebo Effect in LLaL

LLaL:

Now that you have read “What’s That I Smell?” and “Wired to the Kitchen Sink: Studying Weird Claims for Fun and Profit,” select a topic to write an essay addressing one of the issues.

SLO:

Compose and revise essays according to the conventions of MLA format.

PROMPT 1:

(“What’s That I Smell?”)

Should all medicines be required to have the same “proof” for producing positive benefits before patients have access to them? Why/Why not? Consider the limit(s) of science to gauge the medicinal benefits of the metaphysical realm, such as “negative energies... evil spirits... life energy” (94) versus the physical—chamomile’s effect on insomnia (94) and the psychological—jasmine’s effect on postnatal depression (95). Why/why not? Is there a bias against non-traditional approaches?

PROMPT 2:

(“Wired to the Kitchen Sink: Studying Weird Claims for Fun and Profit”)

What harm can pseudo therapies cause to patients, if any at all? Should alternative medicine be considered medicine? Why/why not? Consider Hall’s argument against pseudo therapies. Think about the term “illusory perception” and how this idea preys upon human beings’ need to understand and find patterns for the unexplainable. Should a medical treatment be disregarded if it cannot be explained using science?

CONTENT:

The essay must have an introduction, body, and conclusion as outlined by **Anatomy of an Essay Grammar Card**. This means that you must advance a **thesis that you will prove** in your body paragraphs. A well-written essay should explain its ideas thoroughly. Use the **MLA Format Grammar Card** and **Transitions Grammar Card** to write your essay according to MLA guidelines. Remember to include the WORD COUNT at the end of the essay.

FORMAT:

ALL aspects, including the pre-writing, must be typed as well as the rough and final draft.

WORD COUNT:

500 words-750 words (2 or more pages)

VOCABULARY: (Use 10, and underline the words) *achieve, acquire, administer, analyze, approach, appropriate, area, aspect, assess, assist, assume, authority, available, benefit, category, chapter, commission, concept, consist*

POINTS and DUE DATES:

Drafts	Due Dates	Points
Introductory Paragraph		30
2 or more Body Paragraphs		
Concluding Paragraph		
Final Draft		100

Office Hours and Other Resources:

I am available outside of class during office hours or by appointment. Contact me at dkerr@taftcollege.edu. Also, you can visit the Writing and Language Lab (WaLL) in the library for help where English tutors.

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