

Fall 2008

## Essay Three

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### Repository Citation

Urquijo Ruiz, Rita, "Essay Three" (2008). *Information Literacy Resources for Curriculum Development*. 74.  
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**GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY THREE**

- Deadline: Tuesday, November 18, 2008.
- Length: 2-3 pages.
- Texts: stories by Sánchez, Cantú, Hinojosa or Wood

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Write an analytical essay where you discuss one of the topics below. You may use the following questions as guidelines.

- 1) War(s): examine the role/participation of Chicanos in previous U.S. wars. Utilize, for example, the short story entitled: “Tino” by Cantú or “Feliz cumpleaños E.U.A./Happy Birthday, USA” in your paper. Consider the following questions: What does the story say about economically-disadvantaged communities being over-represented in war(s) fought by the U.S.? How does the protagonist view war(s)? How is the topic of death represented in the story?
- 2) Humor: examine the role of humor and/or sarcasm in the story. How is humor represented in the text? How is humor utilized to represent difficult topics such as racism, poverty, illiteracy? Why is humor important in Chicano literature in general?
- 3) Poverty: discuss the topic of economic disadvantage in the story. How is the social-economic status of the characters represented in the story? What role does economic exploitation play in the story? Why does the family remain poor in the story? How does poverty affect the characters?
- 4) OPEN TOPIC: Consult the professor if you would like to write on another topic.

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**Warning:**

- All previous requirements (margin, number of pages, grammar, etc) apply to this essay as well.
- You must cite, at least **two critical essays or books** regarding your topic. (Contact Jason Harding if you need help locating these materials).
- **You must turn in a summary (150 words) of one of the articles cited in your essay. Make sure to write down all bibliographical information (author, title, number of pages, etc.) in MLA Style.**
- Make an appointment with the professor to go over your thesis statement and outline. Remember that you must avoid summarizing the short story. Make sure you organize your ideas clearly and offer concrete examples from the text(s).