

FWS: Literature Afloat, Identities in Motion  
Essay 4 Prompt

We've made an important transition from literary readings and discussions to critical texts such as those by Montaigne, Derrida and Said. Each of these philosophers/scholars have a distinct idea on the interactions with an *other*, a person or people who is not like oneself. Write an essay (5 pages) in which you **explore why you think these texts were written and why you think they should/should not continue to be read**. You may mention other texts we have read as examples but they should not be the principle text you engage with.

In this essay, it is highly recommended for you to write about a single author and his text. Think: quality over quantity, depth over breadth. The following guidelines are meant to help you brainstorm, and the external resource is mandatory.

1. Review what each of these philosophers/scholars are arguing in their respective texts
2. Decide: Do you agree or disagree? Which is most compelling to you?
3. Find an external resource (a published critical article, book review, etc.) that comments on these philosophers'/scholars' thoughts
4. For the external resource, decide: Do you agree or disagree? Incorporate these ideas into your essay to support your claims with examples.

External resources can be found by using the library.cornell.edu search engine and typing in these texts or authors. You may also use google but your results will be broad and you may not necessarily find a critical commentary. Blog posts for example do not count. If you have questions or doubts about your external resource, don't hesitate to ask me.

Lastly, cite your external resource in MLA format, using a footnote to indicate the specific text you used.

More on this here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>