

“This I Wish to Change...”
The Grapes of Wrath
Literature & Composition III

Name: _____
Date: _____
Block: _____

“This I Wish to Change...” Essay:
How can I change society?

For a majority of this past semester we have been reading a very important historical novel that documented a very powerful message in its own right. Steinbeck captured the anger of a nation of people and voiced that anger to use it as a tool for change. Hollywood itself recognized the significance of this message producing a film version of the book just one year after its publication and sale to the public.

You will now be asked to tap into your own frustration. What are you angered by? What is going on in your life around you, both locally and globally, that you see as an injustice that you would like to correct?

For now, focus strictly on your own experience—consider whether your concern is focused on a local, national or global issue. Again, what are you frustrated with in your world? Are you concerned with the economy? With constant war and conflict? How about your ability to find a part-time job? What about home foreclosures in your community? The cost of a college education? If these larger than life topics do not appeal to you, then what about conditions in your own personal life? Attempts to address this type of change actually have better odds at a successful outcome of the desired change.

You will first brainstorm a list of topics. From there you will conduct research to pinpoint your topic and clearly define the depth of your written exploration. Only then will you begin writing a traditional essay exploring the topic of your choice. Your essay must use MLA formatting and address the following:

- Build the topic’s context and take a position for your argument (intro)
- Establish, elaborate and substantiate your viewpoint (body)
- Recognize counterargument and address rebuttal (body)
- Provide a line of action to be taken to address your frustration (conclusion)

As you can see, this essay is to follow an IBC structure. If your topic is compelling enough to you (meaning you carefully selected a personally relevant topic), this format will grow with ease. Do not think your format must be four or five paragraphs. Just make sure to cover the points above as you work through your essay. A logical range for this endeavor is 3-4 content pages plus your Works Cited page.

Your essay is worth 125 total points: final draft (100 pts) and works cited page (25 pts).