

## ESSAY II SEQUENCE

Your second essay of the semester will be much like your first, but with a broader base of texts from which to draw and a slightly longer length (about 5-6 pages) to allow for greater depth and scope in addressing your subject. In this one too, you will use the reading as your starting place, identifying some element that recurs in two or more of the futuristic texts we have read thus far and then using that textual material as a lens through which to scrutinize some aspect of the world of the present.

**I. Proposal.** Your proposal for your second essay is **due in class on Tuesday, October 16**. It should be a typed, double-spaced paragraph or two (again about half a page to a page), telling me what you intend to write about in the essay—what textual materials from the things we've read so far (essays by Goldbarth, LeGuin, Baker; story by Saunders; novels by Bradbury, LeGuin, Atwood; film *The Matrix*) will provide you with the occasion to **measure some aspect of the world we live in now**, using the futuristic worlds of the texts as your gauge. As always, you should choose something that arouses some genuine interest in you, and you should write the essay in a way that is interesting, informative, and convincing to your audience (a broad one of generally educated readers). Your evidence for the claim you make in the essay can come from personal experience as well as from research, though the research you do for this one should be limited and not extensive. You may, if you choose, write on a topic you would like to research in greater depth for your third essay, which will be an investigative one.

**II. Essay II, First Submission.** (As usual, NOT a “rough draft.”) Your second essay, **complete and with full citation, is due in class on Thursday, October 25**. I will announce workshop groups for Essay II ahead of time, and **you must also post your essays on the Stellar workshop site by 5:00 p.m. on the 25th**. To prepare for the workshop, you should **write a response to each writer in your workshop group to fully record your praise, your questions, and your suggestions in a note—signed—to the writer** so that all of you will take with you from the workshop the written responses of the readers in your group to aid you in revising your essay. You will spend your class time on Tuesday, October 30, in workshops.

**III. Essay II, Revision.** Your revision of Essay II is **due in the box on my office door by noon on Monday, November 5**.

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have as you plan, draft, revise and polish your second essay. I hope you enjoy the process of working on it, and I look forward to reading what you write.