

Assignments

Week 1, beginning 8/20/2007:

Tuesday:

- We'll discuss the syllabus and the structure and goals of the course.
- You'll do a calculation at the end of the syllabus to determine if you're giving yourself enough time to succeed or if you're setting yourself up to be so pressured by work, family and SCC commitments that at some point in the semester you, the beautiful butterfly ready to fly about the garden of education - - if you're uncomfortable with this metaphor, replace it with powerful cat ready to explore educational savannahs -- will be squished like a bug under the heavy boot of too-many-responsibilities.
- I'll hand out Neil Postman's "The Bias of Language, The Bias of Pictures," which we'll begin discussing.

Homework due Thursday:

1. If you're not yet registered for the class, make sure you do that either online or in person.
2. Purchase required texts.
3. Complete your first quiz by going to the site listed above, Qcounty.com, and by following the link in the upper right-hand corner to [Solano College classes](#) and the link to [Fall 2007](#). Select your class and then follow the link to First Visit. Follow the directions you'll find there to send me an email. Don't forget to include your name!
4. Read Postman's essay "The Bias of Language, The Bias of Pictures."
5. Bring a picture that has an emotional impact on you from a newspaper, magazine or the Internet to class.

Thursday:

- Bring all required texts.
- Bring your picture.
- You'll take a quick, open-note quiz on Postman's article. If you've read the article, you'll do well.
- We'll critically discuss Postman's article and discuss how it relates to the images you brought.
- You'll take some time in class to use Postman's ideas to brainstorm the various factors that cause you to connect with your image.

Homework due Next Tuesday:

1. Now that you understand Postman better, pick an image, which may be the same one you brought to class, about which you'd like to write a double-spaced, one-page (~250 words) essay. Brainstorm as you did in class the important factors that are influencing your reaction to the image.
2. In *From Critical Thinking to Argument*, read Chapter 1, "Critical Thinking," pages 3-22.
3. Be prepared for an open-note quiz on this chapter on either Tuesday or Thursday.

