

Assignments

Week 1, beginning 8/18 /2008:

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 will be squished like a bug under the heavy boot of too-many-responsibilities. If you're uncomfortable as a butterfly, picture yourself instead as a powerful cat ready to explore educational savannahs that gets run over by a herd of too-heavy-commitments.

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 and a composition book for your journal.
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 2008. 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. If you want to get a head start on Thursday, while you're online read Postman's essay "Ring Around the Collar, a link to which you will find online under this assignment.
5. Bring to class an advertisement that you especially like from a newspaper, magazine or the Internet that you'd like to analyze.

Thursday:

- Bring 50 essays, a dictionary and your journal to class.
- Bring your advertisement.
- I'll hand out Neil Postman's "Parable of Ring Around the Collar," which we'll read in class and begin discussing.
- You'll take some time in class to write in your journal about your advertisement, using Postman's ideas to help you analyze why the ad engages you.

Homework due Next Tuesday & Thursday:

1. Now that you understand Postman better, pick an advertisement about which you'd like to write a double-spaced, two-page (~500 words) essay. Indeed this may be the same one you've already picked. This essay will probably be due next Thursday, 8/28.
2. In your journal, brainstorm the major points you want to make in your essay about your advertisement.
3. In *50 Essays*, read Joan Didion's "On Keeping a Journal," pages 131-138.
4. Be prepared for an open-note quiz on Didion's article on Tuesday.



"Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson.