

Assignment # 3:	Joining the Conversation
Short Rough Draft Due Date:	April 24
Long Rough Draft Due Date:	April 26
Final Draft Due Date:	May 3, hard copy by <i>beginning</i> of class
Length:	6-8 <u>FULL</u> pages (not including Works Cited Page)

Throughout the semester, you have written about entering adulthood and graduating from college. Now, you will take your inquiry a step further by examining the topic of happiness. In unit 3, we will read many texts, listen to many songs, and watch many video clips about happiness. For assignment three, you must draw from at least six outside sources, analyze the context of these sources, and join the conversation on the topic of happiness.

You can narrow the topic in whichever way you choose, focusing on the how of happiness, the science of happiness, the philosophy of happiness, happiness and money, happiness and emotions, happiness and health, or any other way which you think is most interesting to you. In class, we will go over how to find academic sources and locate meaningful research on the topic.

Your 6-8 page paper should do the following:

1. Introduce the topic of happiness and demonstrate its significance.
2. Analyze at least six sources which examine the topic. Three of these sources must be academic and one must be the film *American Beauty*.
3. With each of these sources, identify the contexts within which that discussion takes place—historical, social, intellectual, generic, political, technological context, etc.—and how those texts are shaped by those contexts.
4. Position yourself in relation to the texts in order to make an argument that enables you to join the conversation on happiness.
5. Thoughtfully conclude by considering how joining the conversation on happiness will positively impact your life.

Requirements:

This paper requires the following:

- At least six credible, sufficient sources. Three must be from your own research.
- Three must be academic sources. One source must be *American Beauty*.
- A correctly formatted Works Cited page.
- 12pt font, 1 inch margins, and MLA formatting (see Purdue OWL if you need assistance)

Student Learning Outcome:

Using a group of texts in an ongoing public discussion, identify the contexts within which that discussion takes place—historical, social, intellectual, generic, political, technological context, etc.—and how those texts are shaped by those contexts. Position yourself in relation to the texts in order to make an argument that enables you to “join the conversation.”

Note: You will turn in a hard copy of the final draft for this paper by the beginning of class on 5/3. Papers more than 10 minutes tardy will be considered late. Electronic submissions of the final draft will not be accepted.