

Paper 1

For this essay, you will choose one of the topics below and write an essay that expresses your opinion on that topic. I will be grading you on a) how well you construct and defend an original thesis and b) on how well you incorporate outside sources into your writing.

Specifically, this essay should

- \* be 3-4 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, 12 point font,
- \* have at least 2 textbook sources quoted in the body of the paper, and
- \* have an attached Works Cited page that correctly lists the two articles from our class textbook in MLA format.

1. Barbara Graham writes in “The Future of Love” that “we expect our marriages and relationships to be long-running fairy tales. When they’re not, instead of examining our expectations, we switch partners and reinvent the fantasy, hoping this time we’ll get it right” (9). Explore some of the messages that our culture gives us (about marriage as a fairy tale), providing specific examples from the media. How do these images of “happily ever after” differ from what experts (psychologists, sociologists, pastors, your parents, etc.) might describe as a successful marriage?

2. In “The Future of Love,” Barbara Graham argues that, historically, most people chose their mates for economic, religious, or social reasons – not because of love. Do you think modern marriages, which are often based on love rather than on economic, social, or familial issues, evidence a good or a bad change in the way of doing things? How might one address the fact that this new method results in an inordinate number of failed marriages and broken homes?

3. In “...Set the Career Path to Motherhood,” Louise Story claims that many women at elite universities still feel that their true calling is the job of the stay-at-home mom. What is your opinion on the relationship between work and parenting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Should a parent stay home with the kids? Why or why not? Can modern families afford for one parent to stay home with the kids? Why or why not?

4. In “Single Minded,” Keith O’Brien claims that many Americans have no desire to get married. Do you think there is a trend toward “singleness” in our country? What is your opinion on this phenomenon, if it exists? (Is it good? Bad? What possible consequences (good or bad) might it have on society as a whole?)