

Mr. Francis
American Studies

American Identity Essay

In his song “Imagine,” the British expatriate, pop star, and political activist John Lennon presented one way of thinking about national identity. He optimistically suggests that without any national identity, people would have no reasons left to go to war:

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace

For your first essay this semester, you will respond to the following topic: Explore the ways you think about yourself in relation to the United States. Consider how important (or unimportant) it is for you to identify (or not identify) yourself as a part of this nation--geographically, culturally, spiritually, politically, philosophically, etc.

This is the first major writing assignment for your American Studies class. This essay should reflect your own ideas on this subject, and it should be well-planned and organized. You should spend some time outlining the specific points you would like to make and brainstorming the ways you will support those points.

You should draw from your own experience, most likely by including personal information and details that support your ideas. But do not make this essay only about you. You should address the big picture, by considering the importance of your perspective for other people.

Please use standard MLA format. The essay must be double-spaced, with one-inch margins all around. Please use a 12-point, Times New Roman font. All papers must have an appropriate and creative title.

Length guideline: 2-3 pages. No coversheets.