

Directions: Please pick ONE of the following and write a short in-class response.

1. "The Invisible Flying Cat" by Malcolm Browne

Is science fun, dull, or in between? In a short essay, state your opinion and share with your reader encounters and experiences that have shaped it.

2. "English is a Crazy Language" by Richard Lederer

Below is the text of a bill introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. In a short essay, give your position on it and reasons for holding that position.

*The Government of the United States shall preserve and enhance the role of English as the official language of the United States of America. Unless specifically stated in applicable law, no person has a right, entitlement, or claim to have the Government of the United States or any of its officials or representatives act, communicate, perform or provide services, or provide materials in any language other than English. If exceptions are made, that does not create a legal entitlement to additional services in that language or any language other than English.*

3. "If You Are What You Eat, Then What Am I?" by Geeta Kothari

The types of foods we eat and the food customs we practice can say a lot about ourselves, our families, and our cultures. Write a short essay about the symbolism of food and eating in your family or culture. What food traditions do you, your family, and/or your culture practice? What do they mean to you?

4. "The Wounds that Can't Be Stitched Up" by Ruth Russell

Even though the auto accident Russell writes about took place more than twenty years earlier, she only recently realized the depth to which it affected her. Write a short essay describing an event in your past that continues to affect you. Please describe the event and the effects you've discovered it still has on you. All responses will be kept completely private.