

Writing Assignment #5: Our Celebrity Culture

English 1A—Wall



Background

Once upon a time, accomplished individuals received honor and renown. In our era, this has morphed into adulation of celebrities. Celebrity worship is a fast-growing religion in America. The stars have become our gods and goddesses. This essay will explore the positive and negative aspects of our obsession with fame, and you will take a position. Is this obsession of ours ***good for society?***

Pre-writing

You have already done research on this topic. See your BOOK SOURCES “quiz.”

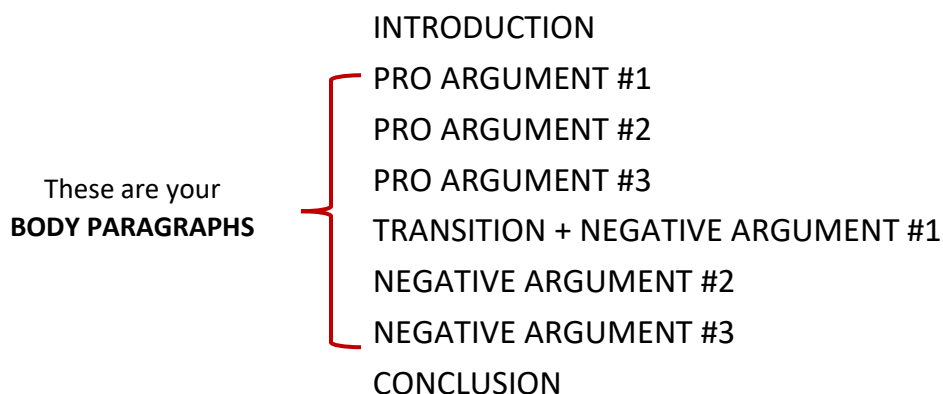
Prompt

Evaluate our culture’s fascination with celebrities. Take a position and state your conclusion. Is this trend positive? Harmless? Dangerous? Explain your reasoning. Should anything be done? FOLLOW THE **DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS** below.

Length

Your essay will be **three full pages** (minimum), 12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, plus an additional **Works Cited page**. SEE **DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS** below ↓

Your essay will have EIGHT PARAGRAPHS:



Your essay will include at least three quotes:

1. One from the article by **de Botton**
2. One from the article by **Mehta**
3. One from a web site. See **“In-Text Citations”** and **“Works Cited Help”** at **DRWALL.ORG**.

Your Creative Title Goes Here ← capitalized, centered

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

In your INTRODUCTION, do three things, in this order:

1. First, provide a contemporary **example** of our fascination with celebrity as a HOOK.
 - If you believe our fascination is mostly positive, choose a positive example.
 - If you believe our fascination is mostly negative, choose a negative example.
 - If you believe our fascination is NEUTRAL, choose a neutral example.**See GOOD INTRODUCTIONS at DRWALL.ORG for examples of all three types.**
2. COPY the following statement of **purpose**: “The purpose of this essay is to *evaluate* our fascination with celebrities. Is this obsession of ours good for society?”
3. State your **thesis**. Choose one of three positions: This fascination of ours is (a) mostly *positive*, (b) mostly *negative*, or (c) *neutral*.

BODY PARAGRAPH #1

- Begin with this TOPIC SENTENCE: **One positive aspect of our celebrity craze is that celebrities can call our attention to worthy causes.**
- Then provide an example or two, starting with Angelina Jolie.

BODY PARAGRAPH #2 (based on your Google research). Begin with TOPIC SENTENCE:

- **Another positive aspect of our fascination with celebrities is...** + example or two

BODY PARAGRAPH #3 (based on your Google research). Begin with TOPIC SENTENCE:

- **A third positive aspect of celebrity culture is...** + example or two

BODY PARAGRAPH #4

- When it’s time to switch to the negative aspects, you’ll first need a short TRANSITION:
However, not everything about the celebrity culture is positive. One negative aspect is...

Then continue with negative aspects in **BODY PARAGRAPHS #5 and #6**—always beginning with a TOPIC SENTENCE and then providing an example or two.

You will insert three **QUOTES** in the BODY of your essay—the two book quotes, plus a quote which you will obtain from a web site that you located in your Google research.

CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH

Now it is time to argue persuasively for your position. Is this fascination of ours mostly good or mostly bad? Summarize your most convincing reasons, but don't just repeat word-for-word what you've already said. Should anything be done to change what is happening in our culture? Why or why not?

DOCUMENTATION

For your three quotes, provide **in-text citations** and a separate **Works Cited** page.

★★ See the following at **DRWALL.ORG**:

- **In-Text Citations**
- **Works Cited Help**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

You have already had a discussion about the benefits of AI and an Academic Dishonesty "quiz" cautioning you about its dangers. If you choose to make use of AI, **here are the key points to remember** so that you don't receive a zero on this assignment:

1. You don't HAVE to use AI on this assignment. In fact, if you can avoid using AI, that is always the safer path. However, if writing these essays in English is about as much fun as getting a root canal from the dentist, then go ahead and see if AI can provide you a bit of relief.
2. AI is only a tool. YOU still need to be firmly in charge of what goes in your essay. So make sure that your end product follows the above instructions for this assignment.
3. Double check everything! If your essay contains falsehoods, you can't blame AI. It's only a computer that is GUESSING at what you want.
4. Include this sentence at the end of your essay (not on your Works Cited page):
This essay was written with the assistance of (name of AI search engine).
Failure to include this sentence makes you guilty of plagiarism and you will receive a zero on the assignment, but the zero may not appear immediately.