

## Unit IV Essay Evaluation—The Cold War

### I. Group Activity for Class

### II. Homework Assignment

#### I. Group Activity

Note: For those writers who feel they are approaching college-level writing, skip topics 1 and 2, and go straight to topic number 3.

1. Read one another's thesis statements and themes. Discuss each thesis and all the themes in them. Evaluate
  - a. whether each thesis is a complete, direct answer to both exam questions.
  - b. whether each theme is too vague or too specific and why, and re-write the themes to correct their problems.
2. Read each other's topic sentences. Evaluate whether they are successful TSs based on
  - a. whether they are stairs on the staircase to the thesis—by proving each TS, is the writer taking a step toward proving the thesis?
  - b. whether each theme is repeated from the thesis.
  - c. whether the TSs are used effectively to organize the essay and create a successful framework for proving the thesis in a step-by-step way.
3. Read everyone's body paragraph #1 and discuss them:
  - a. Which pieces of evidence are most convincing and least convincing?
  - b. Which pieces of evidence are most creative and least creative?
  - c. Which pieces of evidence are best interpreted and not so well interpreted...Hints: Is the writer going to the word level? Is the writer explaining how the evidence relates to the theme in the topic sentence and the thesis as a whole?
4. Repeat the process from #3 with body paragraph #2

#### II. Homework Assignment

Write a 1-2 page summary of your analysis of topics 1-4 for your own paper. Explain what you learned from your classmates and what you figured out yourself about your own essay. Explain what you did well in this essay and your goals for your next essay.

**Important: Use your rubric to guide you in this assignment!**