

# DOUBT

---

# PERSONAL ESSAY

---

1 0 0 P O I N T S

**Introduction:** We have been discussing Shanley's perspective of America: that it has become a "courtroom culture," a community of dogma, judgment, and fallacious logic. The purpose of this assignment is to elevate your awareness and explore the *potential* consequences and dangers of fallacious thinking and unwavering certainty.

**Writing Prompts:** Choose one of the tasks below.

1. Assume the identity of a person (real or fictitious) whom society has ostracized or judged using fallacious logic. Don't worry so much about identifying the type of fallacy; rather, examine the fallacious conclusion, debunk it, and reflect on "your" thoughts and feelings.
2. Describe an experience where someone has ostracized or judged you using fallacious logic. Again, don't worry so much about identifying the type of fallacy; rather, describe the moment, examine the fallacious conclusion, debunk it, and reflect on your thoughts and feelings.
3. Describe an experience where you have used fallacious logic to draw a conclusion about someone or something. Again, don't worry so much about identifying the type of fallacy; rather, describe the moment, examine the fallacious conclusion, debunk it, and reflect on your thoughts and feelings.
4. Describe and reflect upon an experience where you felt certainty or doubt.

### Specific Guidelines:

1. Your response must be about 1.5 pp., typed, double-spaced, with a proper heading.
2. I will grade your work according to the traditional guidelines; however, your work will be graded primarily on how interesting it is.  
-- If you let your personality, your voice, who you are shine through -- trust me -- your work will be interesting.
3. Free-write or use another planning strategy we discussed in class.
4. Show!! Be descriptive and creative!
5. Determine the purpose and generate a thesis statement to help organize the body of the essay.
6. Be honest and genuine :).
7. Proofread!!!

**Late Policy:** You are allowed to submit this assignment no more than three-days late for partial credit (-10% per day).