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Front Matter

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The Idea of an Essay: Volume Three
Talking Black, Reading Letters,
and Examining Logic

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Editorial Staff

The Composition Committee

Dan Clark
Melissa Faulkner
Andy Graff
Isaac Mayeux
Mary McCulley
Cyndi Messer
Julie Moore
Michelle Wood
Nellie Sullivan

Student Editors

Austin Cordle
Elise Parsons

Design & Cover Art

Elise Parsons

*Thanks to the Cedarville University Department
of English, Literature, and Modern Languages*

The Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages

Our Mission

Hello from Cedarville University, and thank you for your interest in the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages. Our programs produce men and women who communicate effectively and think deeply, cross-culturally, and creatively about the ideas that have shaped and continue to shape our world.

Our mission is to challenge students to go beyond expectations. Henry David Thoreau once wrote that we hit only what we aim at and thus ought to aim at something high. We agree — aim high. Who will write the definitive scholarly treatment of Don DeLillo's work? Who will share Christ by teaching English to migrant workers in west Michigan? Where is this generation's C.S. Lewis or Flannery O'Connor? At Cedarville University, we want our students to aspire to such heights.

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Introduction

Introduction

Dear Readers,

Welcome to Cedarville University. We are excited to have you in our composition classes. This anthology is meant to serve as a learning tool, and we will use it together over the course of this semester as we engage in the process of writing.

Cedarville University values writing. Regardless of your major, writing will be an intrinsic part of your education during your years at Cedarville, as it is a primary means of expressing clear, organized, critical thought. Perhaps more importantly, the writing you will do as part of your academic life will serve as practice for the various writing tasks each of you will complete as part of your chosen professions, as well as preparation for the writing you will do in your various communities, interpersonal relationships, and your daily devotions with God.

Cedarville University commits to preparing each of you to be successful writers by requiring a first-year composition course taught by a member of the English, Literature, and Modern Languages Department. As composition instructors, we recognize the excellent writing created in our classes, so we host an annual composition contest for students who completed the course during that year. The anthology you are about to read consists of the winners of that contest for the 2013-2014 academic year.

In the following pages, you will find models of university level writing, as well as examples of how to structure, organize, support, and document various genres of essays written for different purposes and with specific audiences in mind. We do not suggest these essays are perfect, as one of the most exciting aspects of writing is that it is a process that includes revision, so a text can always be improved upon or recreated as something different.

Each essay begins with an instructor's note that provides context for the essay and asks questions to prompt further ideas. The instructor's note is followed by a short biography of the student who wrote the essay to hopefully illustrate that, although these students are now published authors, they are not much different from you, the reader. You should find this encouraging. If these students can write successfully at the university level, then so can you.

Sincerely,
The Cedarville Composition Instructors



Daniel Clark

Associate Professor of English

Professor Clark teaches courses in composition, advanced grammar, contemporary world literature, film, and the graphic novel. Along with Dr. Andrew Wiseman, Professor Clark developed Cedarville's foreign film series. He also serves as co-sponsor of Alpha Kappa Delta, Cedarville's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Before coming to Cedarville, he taught at the University of Maryland Asian Division in Okinawa, Japan. He also taught English as a Second Language (ESL) at the Okinawa Prefectural Language Center. Professor Clark has been at Cedarville since 1999.

Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- B.A. in Secondary Education (with proficiencies in English and Bible), Tennessee Temple University

Interests

- Theology
- Film and contemporary world literature
- Japanese culture
- Comics, comix, graphic novels, manga, and bandes dessinées
- The Atlanta Braves (chop on!)

Contact Information

Email: clarkd@cedarville.edu

Melissa Faulkner

Associate Professor of English

Dr. Faulkner teaches Basic English, Composition, and Visual Rhetoric. She also serves as the coordinator for Writing Across the Curriculum. Her research interests include memoirs as retention and critical thinking tools, story analysis, and the organic connection between WAC programs and assessment. Dr. Faulkner has received multiple Excellence in Teaching awards, including one from the Southern Ohio Council of Higher Education.



Education and Credentials

- Ph.D., Miami University of Ohio
- M.A., Wright State University
- B.A., Wright State University

Contact Information

Email: mfaulkner@cedarville.edu



Andy Graff

Some kind of professor of English

Professor Andrew Graff joined the faculty of the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages in 2015. Andy's short fiction has appeared in *Stolen Island* and NPR's *Three Minute Fiction*. At Cedarville, he teaches Introductory and Advanced Fiction workshop, Introduction to

Literature, English Composition, and a special topics course leading to the annual publication of *The Cedarville Review*.

Education and Credentials

- M.F.A. in Creative Writing with emphasis in Fiction, University of Iowa
- B.A. in English Literature, Lawrence University

Contact Information

email: agraff@cedarville.edu

Isaac Mayeux

Assistant Professor of English

Isaac Mayeux has taught Composition at Cedarville since 2012. He also serves as the university's Director of Debate, Assistant Director of the Writing Center, and co-sponsor of Alpha Kappa Delta, Cedarville's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Before coming to Cedarville, he taught Composition at the University of Dayton while studying for his M.A. He also taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in Seoul, South Korea for one year.



Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English and American Literature, University of Dayton
- B.A. in English, Cedarville University

Interests

- Graphic narrative (AKA comics)
- Animation
- Sport coats
- Christian poetics
- Complicated strategy board games
- Cultural criticism

Contact Information

Email: isaacjmayeux@cedarville.edu



Mary McCulley

Some kind of professor of English

Professor Mary McCulley joined the faculty of the Department of English, Literature, and Modern Languages in 2015. She grew up in Texas with four siblings and two godly, loving parents. The Lord saved me when I was around 8 years old and has called me to be actively involved in music

and children's ministries since I was young.

Education and Credentials

- ABD in English, Texas Christian University
- M.A. in Rhetoric and Composition, Texas State University
- B.A. in English, Texas State University

Interests

- Piano
- Painting
- Reading
- Writing
- Hiking
- Decorating

Cyndi Messer

Associate Professor of English

Professor Messer taught several years in secondary education before joining the faculty at Cedarville in 1998. She teaches general composition and literature courses as well as methods courses for future English teachers. She currently serves as the program coordinator for the Adolescent and Young Adult Language Arts (AYALA) majors and is a key contact for questions concerning the English education program. She also serves as faculty advisor for *The Miracle*, Cedarville's yearbook.



Education and Credentials

- M.A. in English, Wright State University
- B.A. in English Education, Cedarville College

Interests

- Favorite Places Visited: Paris, Puerto Vallarta, and San Francisco
- Hobbies: playing board games with family, exercising, reading, playing piano, gathering family and friends around a bonfire
- Favorite Authors: C.S. Lewis, Amy Tan, Thomas Hardy, John Steinbeck, Marilynne Robinson, Erik Lawson, and Shakespeare

Contact Information

Email: messerc@cedarville.edu



Julie Moore

Associate Professor of Literature

Professor Moore directs the University's Writing Center, and in 2008, she received the Dean's Service Award for her work. She is also the author of the poetry books, *Slipping Out of Bloom* and *Election Day*. Professor Moore has been nominated for the Best of the Net anthology and twice for the

Pushcart Prize; she has also received the Editor's Choice Award from Writecorner Press, the Rosine Offen Memorial Award from the Free Lunch Arts Alliance, and the Janet B. McCabe Poetry Prize from Ruminare. You can learn more about her work at www.juliemoore.com.

Education and Credentials

- The Ohio Writing Project, Miami University
- M.A., University of Dayton
- B.A., Cedarville University

Interests

- Broadcasting poems on "Conrad's Corner" on WYSO, 91.3 FM
- Watching foreign films and movies based on literary works
- Cheering for the Philadelphia Phillies and Eagles

Contact Information

Email: moorej@cedarville.edu

Nellie Sullivan

Assistant Professor of English

Helena “Nellie” Sullivan’s poems, reviews, and translations have appeared in *eXchanges*, *Moist Towellette*, *Hover Project*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Shampoo*. At Cedarville, she teaches Poetry Workshop, Advanced Poetry Workshop, Contemporary Poetry, Introduction to Literature, and Freshman Composition. She has been at Cedarville since 2006.



Education and Credentials

- M.F.A. in Creative Writing with emphasis in poetry, University of Iowa
- B.S. in Cultural Anthropology and English Literature, Central Michigan University

Interests

- Travel/Road trips
- Canning food
- Film
- Lateral logic puzzles
- Illuminated manuscripts

Contact Information

Email: helenasullivan@cedarville.edu



Michelle Wood

Associate Professor of English

Doctor Wood has been at Cedarville since 1995. Before coming to Cedarville, she taught English in Beijing, China. She has presented papers at national conferences, including the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the National Council of Teachers of English, the College English

Association, and the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, speaking on topics such as Multigenre writing, Catharine Maria Sedgwick, Margaret Fuller, Alice Cary, and Amy Tan. Dr. Wood is a member of the Society for the Study of American Woman Writers and the Catharine Maria Sedgwick society.

Education and Credentials

- Ph.D. in Literature and Criticism, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- M.A. in Composition and Rhetoric, Wright State University
- B.A. in English Education and Speech Education, Cedarville College

Interests

- Travel
- Biking
- Archival research of women's life-writing
- College football

Contact Information

Email: woodm@cedarville.edu