# Quarterly Essay #1: Third-person exposition

*Explaining or analyzing a main idea—from a point of view outside the speaker*

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| Do we need a wall and border police between the U.S. and Mexico? Why or why not? |

Read:

Two assigned essays in NWR plus one other source: (1) Ellis Cose (31-34), (2) Richard Rodriguez (58-62), and (3) one more source. Optional: Include a source re: Trump’s plan to build a U.S./Mexico wall and have Mexico pay for it; his comments re: Mexicans and Mexico.

Review:

Critical reading. Refer to NWR readings and your source, mostly in the third person. Occasional use of first person singular (“I”), referring to your observations or experience, or plural (“we”), referring to our collective, contemporary point of view—is okay.

Examples of third-person exposition. Textbooks and research-based nonfiction, such as *New World Reader* (NWR) essays*,* are usually written in the third person. News articles, reports, and academic papers are also usually in the third person.

**To do:**

Read critically: (a) recognize author’s key points, (b) register your position—whether you agree/disagree with author and your own experience and observations, (c) questions and concerns provoked by these readings.

Consider questions in “Responding in Writing.” Preview author, title, audience, questions; then, read for understanding and recall.

Key words and phrases. Develop a working vocabulary, based on the readings.

Expand key words into a concept or idea for discussion. What’s the author’s main idea? What are the implications (indirect or unstated meaning or suggested significance) of this idea? Provide quotes or examples from the reading as a point of departure for your own commentary. Also, consider raising questions or points of agreement/ disagreement with the text. Occasional use of “I” or “we” is okay, especially to register your personal experience or observation. Note how Cose and Rodriguez intersect the personal (1st person) and the political (3rd person).

# Helpful hints:

Compare first-person narrative and third-person exposition. First-person narrative: telling a story from the “I” point of view—feels familiar, closer to the way we talk, authentic, of human interest, easy to follow; does not consider other POVs, limited by the location and time of the speaker. Third-person exposition: explanation or analysis of a main idea or proposal—feels less familiar (we don’t talk that way), more distant (topic is the focus, outside the self), logical connections across time (historical, present) and space (various locations or cultures) from multiple sources.

Format:

Include direct quotations or examples with in-text citation. List sources as works cited—according to MLA format. 2-3 pages. Give your work a title.