What is Happiness?[[1]](#footnote-1)

The basic premise of Essay #3 is to define and analyze an abstract concept, specifically "happiness," by looking at it from multiple perspectives. Therefore, “they say” will be imperative as we construct what “I say.” In other words, this essay will include analyses of multiple viewpoints, including our own.

To draft the essay...

**1. Respond to the following prompt:  What is Happiness?**  The basic answer to the prompt is our working thesis (controlling idea).

**2. To develop this thesis, clarify YOUR OWN definition of happiness** by using multiple rhetorical strategies: examples, description, comparison, process analysis, etc.

**3. To further support our thesis, we must also acknowledge the ideas from texts below.** We may do this by agreeing and/or disagreeing with the authors. \*Note: do NOT research other published viewpoints on happiness. I am assessing our ability to analyze specific viewpoints-- to think critically about how they align (or do not align) with our own.

**NOTE:**As we craft our essay, utilize They Say, I Say strategies to incorporate “they say” pieces [summary, paraphrases, and quotes] and to effectively voice “I say” ideas. We must also use MLA format for our in-text citations.[[2]](#footnote-2)

**THE NITTY-GRITTY:**

* 3-4 pages in length, double-spaced, plus an MLA Works Cited page
* Critique of ONE text DUE Tuesday, May 11 (to CCLE discussion board “Week 7”)
* Outline DUE Thursday, May 13 (to google folder)
* Peer Review DUE by Thursday, May 20 by 5 PM (by email)
* Conferences (5/24, 5/25, and 5/26)
* Final Draft DUE by June 1 by 5 PM (in CCLE)

 \*\*\*As always, we are encouraged to use the Writing Center as a resource for revision.

Happiness texts:

1. Ed Diener, “Very Happy People”

2. Ed Diener and Robert Biswas-Diener, “Can money buy happiness?”

3. David Brooks, “What Suffering Does”

4. Oliver Sacks, “My Own Life”

5. Sherry Turkle, “Stop Googling. Let’s Talk.”

1. Created by Corrie Martin, South Puget Sound [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)