

For this essay, consider the short essay in your primary readings text by Oliver Sacks entitled "The Disembodied Lady" (pp. 446-454). You'll be using the case of Christina to consider different understandings of the self: Descartes', and Dreyfus'. You should identify in your introductory paragraph a thesis statement about whose philosophical view most adequately captures Christina's sense of self.

First, give a paragraph or two presenting Christina's story as described in Sacks' essay.

Second, spend several paragraphs discussing the philosophy. You should have a couple of paragraphs both on Descartes and Dreyfus. Discuss them separately. What is Descartes' view of the self? What does he think the self essentially is? How does he arrive at that conclusion? What is the self's relationship with the rest of the world? Material relevant here will come from the *Meditations*, and perhaps the transcript from Williams and Magee. Concerning Dreyfus, how does he conceive the self's essential relationship to the world? How does this understanding of the relationship of the self to the world, shed light on what Dreyfus views as the self? How is his view different from Descartes'?

Third, use the material from Dreyfus and Descartes to understand Christina's situation, and her distress. Who of Dreyfus or Descartes do you find makes more sense out of Christina's lost sense of self? Take care to thoroughly defend yourself here. At least one paragraph should be spent defending why one philosophical view is unsatisfactory, and another paragraph should defend why the other view is satisfactory.

Technicalities:

This essay must be at least 3 full pages, but not more than 5 full pages, in length. Your margins should be 1 inch wide on all sides. Your type should be in a standard style such as Helvetica or times new roman, in size 12. Double space. Do not double space between paragraphs, please. The only place there should be an occurrence of your name is on a separate cover sheet.

You are encouraged to make direct reference to citations from our texts, but you should not use any long, block, quotes. For citations, use in-text parenthetical references (for instance, "blah blah blah," (Readings, p. 24).) Do not use material – directly or indirectly – from the internet, period. This isn't to say you shouldn't consult outside readings to help with your comprehension, but I do not expect any outside sources to appear in your text. If outside sources do make an unfortunate appearance in your text without attribution, rest assured that if I find it, you will have earned yourself at a minimum, a grade of zero for the essay.

For further information such as writing tips, grading guidelines, the late policy and my policy on typos and grammar, see the syllabus.