

Essay Assignment on
Stephen Jay Gould's *Bully for Brontosaurus* and/or Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*:

Submit a MS Word file with a filename in the form "yourlastname_Paper2.doc" (or .docx) via email to stonekim@lawrence.edu by **Wednesday 16 February 2011 at 11:00 AM**. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

The paper should conform to the following format and style expectations:

- 3 – 5 pages, double-spaced, 10-12 point font with approximately 1 inch margins
- Number and put your last name on each page.
- All citations should be in MLA style (see Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual* for details).
- Reaffirm the honor code at the end of the paper. Also acknowledge (in a note at the end of the paper) the assistance of the writing tutor(s) who helped you craft the paper.
- The paper should have a title, but does not need a separate title page.

You are encouraged to work with a CTL writing tutor (preferably Sam McGraw-Schuchman samantha.j.mcgraw-schuchman@lawrence.edu or Carly Roe carly.f.roe@lawrence.edu). Remember to contact only one tutor at a time.

The following topic choices permit a fair amount of freedom in choosing your thesis. I want you to find a topic that excites you and makes this writing assignment as much fun (although still a lot of work ... the two are not mutually exclusive!) as possible. However, in order to make sure you are focused on a relevant and interesting point, I would like to see your thesis statement before you complete the essay. Send me an email message with your paper topic choice and thesis statement by 4 PM the Wednesday (9 Feb). I will give you feedback by sometime on Thursday.

Paper topic options:

- Write a critical review of *The Rite of Spring* as if you were a music/theatre critic who attended the premiere in Paris in 1913. Your review must include a main critical point (thesis) that is backed up by supporting evidence, but it could be positive or negative in its view of the ballet (music, choreography, scenario, etc).
- Use elements of Stephen Jay Gould's essay writing style to make an interesting point about *The Rite of Spring*. Imagine your intended audience is a group of college freshmen who have never heard of Stravinsky's work.
- Pick two essays from the collection, *Bully for Brontosaurus*, that are connected by a common theme. Write a thesis-driven essay that highlights that theme and Gould's position regarding it.
- Craft a thesis-driven essay (that draws evidence from at least two of Gould's essays) in which you address the following mis-reading: "In several essays in *Bully for Brontosaurus*, Gould proves that Darwin's basic ideas (Darwinism) are wrong."