

Excerpt from BRIEF OUTLINE OF PROGRESSIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS IN ENGLISH 115

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Each progression is like a unit and contains 3 exercises leading up to an essay.

Progression II: *The Glass Castle*: Seeing and Hearing Texts

Engagement with a text and the social/psychological/political issues pertaining to the text.

For this progression, students will read *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls, focusing on issues addressed in that book. These issues may include a social, political, psychological, or financial issue, a cultural attitude, or a conflict in the book. Below are several topics students can choose to develop:

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|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Homelessness | Parenting Style | Nature vs. nurture |
| Forgiveness | | |
| Alcoholism | Poverty/Social Class | Child Neglect |
| Nonconformity | | |
| Family food rituals | Social Service Interventions | |

Exercise 1. The word picture

Select an image or object that represents the theme you plan to develop in your essay about *The Glass Castle*. Describe that image. Then analyze that image in terms of the ideas it represents. 1-2 pages.

Exercise 2. The Scene

Write a scene that will help your readers begin to understand what idea your visual object represents. Remember that a scene is dramatic and constructed so that readers experience the action. Your scene does not need to focus on your visual object or image as long as the object plays some part of the scene.

Exercise 3. The ethnography

Your third exercise asks that you produce *ethnography*. Ethnography is a genre of writing that uses fieldwork to provide a descriptive study of human societies. In this instance, your ethnography will help you see your idea in a real-world setting. Here are some possibilities:

1. Have a meal with a family of another ethnicity and write about the scene, the interaction, and the food.
2. Visit a thrift store and a mall and discuss your observations of the differences/similarities between these scenes.
3. Visit an ethnic grocery store that is not part of your own culture—write about the scene, people, food, etc, and about how it feels to be “other.”

Essay II (in multiple drafts and peer reviewed)