

Dear Reader

Diagnostic Assignment

Due: Friday, September 4 by 11:59 PM

Below are a definition of a letter and a list of things that are not traditionally referred to as letters. Read the definition, then select one item from the list. Using the provided definition and our discussion during class on Tuesday as a springboard, compose a 300-word essay in which you argue whether your choice is or is not a letter. There is no “correct” answer here. Instead, I care more about how you construct your argument. As long as you can provide evidence and reasoning for your claim, your answer is legitimate. Think outside the box!

Greco-Roman definition of a letter (adapted from Malherbe, *Ancient Epistolary Theorists*, pg. 12):

- A letter is a written form of speech, conceived of as one half of a dialogue or a surrogate for an actual dialogue, in which the letter writer speaks to the addressee as though they were present

Select one of the following:

1. Email
2. Text message
3. Voice note
4. Missing person flyer
5. Advertisement on a billboard
6. Introduction to a recipe
7. Op-ed
8. Diary entry
9. Epitaph on a gravestone
10. Tweet