Common Read Essay Question
Prepared for the ISEM101 Integrated Seminars


Select one of the central themes in *Tomatoland*, i.e., the challenges faced by migrant workers, by tomato producers or by organic farming, or the challenges of scientific horticultural research, of migrant worker advocacy or of agribusiness advocacy. It should be a theme you have the least personal experience with or knowledge about. Then reword that theme into a question that reflects a challenge associated with that theme, e.g., as a horticultural researcher, how do we invent a nutritional and trusty tomato, that is economically profitable? Or for example, how do I provide for the health and well-being of my migrant family working in the tomato fields of south Florida? Then create a plan or strategy that describes how you will go about answering your question.

Write an essay in which you: 1) Identify the challenge you are addressing, restated as a question, and briefly explain the significance and implications of that question; 2) Provide a plan or strategy that brings together multiple approaches, perspectives, and/or academic disciplines to address the question; 3) Locate and use outside sources (separate from *Tomatoland*) to support or add value to the main points you bring up in your essay. Cite your sources at the end of the essay in a standard reference citation format and include one sentence with each citation stating why you chose that source; and 4) Reflect on how you, as a first-year college student with the experiences of a young adult, are now personally affected by an understanding of the challenges encountered by migrant workers in the tomato fields of south Florida.

Your essay should be a minimum of 1,100 words, but not more than 1,250 words, double-spaced, 12-point font, using proper formatting and citing your sources as described above. Make your essay as compelling as possible, utilizing all writing techniques at your disposal to effectively communicate your strategy to your audience of readers.

The essay is due by 4:00 p.m. on February 4th. Submit your essay in a Word (.docx) file as an attachment in an e-mail to me, Rodney Frey rfrey@uidaho.edu.