



## Mitchell, Edmundson and Education HON 201 A: Prompts for writing response #4

### Instructions:

1. Choose a few prompts for your essay.
2. Synthesize and integrate the readings, our discussions, and your own experiences and plans.
3. Format: 2 pages; 12-point type; double line-spaced
4. Deadline: Thursday, Feb. 21

### Here are the prompts:

#### *Shopping to death:*

- How is university culture devoted to consumption and entertainment?
- Where is passion, and what is its role? Where or when do we need a ruckus?

#### *Where's the passion?*

- Do you agree with Edmundson's basic description of many if not most U.S. college students? Decent, good jury members, in awe of nothing, detached?
- How aware of your own ignorance are you?

#### *Attacking ignorance:*

- Do you "lack the confidence to acknowledge your most precious asset for learning: your ignorance"?
- How averse are you to criticism?
- Megan's question: How can we find flaws in ourselves rather than in the class material? Do we blame ourselves, or the material? Or the professor?
- How do profs find the balance between leading students to question themselves and protecting the students' emotional well-being?
- Who's responsible for your education going forward? What are you going to do about it?

### **From Mitchell: Who is Socrates Now That We Need Him?**

What does the first sentence of paragraph 3 ("Jesus, just now . . .") have to do with Booth's four Rs? Comments? Insights?

In paragraph 6, ("And we say that . . ."), what ideas in this paragraph are related to Plato and/or Booth's essay? How are they related?

Paragraph 10 (“The Socrates we have . . .”) has a definition of “happiness.” Analyze its core ideas. What are they? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

**EXCELLENT THOUGHT EXERCISE:** Take the first sentence of paragraph 20 (“That usually I believe . . .”) as a means to analyze ideas. List five of your beliefs or feelings that you currently have (or had in the recent past). How did you come by those ideas or beliefs? Apply other points of analysis in paragraph 20 to your beliefs. What happens?

In the last sentence of paragraph 20 (“And that furthermore . . .”), Mitchell implies that we do not make a distinction between “belief” and “knowing.” Test his idea.