

## Cover Letter *Apologia*

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### OVERVIEW

An *apologia* is not an apology (a false cognate) but an explanation and justification of one's actions. It addresses the justness or appropriateness of choices one has made, presented in the context of explicit principles and ideals to which one declares adherence. It also implies the existence of a body of people on whom one's actions have influence and impact, as well as an audience in the position to judge the quality and candor of one's self-analysis and to compare it to their own perceptions.

The aim of your cover letter, then, should be to explain the work you are submitting as it successfully meets the ideals set out in the course goals:

- To develop a multifaceted understanding of the social functions and possibilities of language
- To enliven your capacities for making sense in both critical and creative modes
- To develop skills and strategies for effective collaboration as a learner, researcher, and teacher
- To cultivate critical awareness of the ethical, cultural, and political dimensions of the ideas you encounter and explore
- To formulate your own lines of inquiry and paths of exploration that synthesize or integrate different perspectives and approaches to constructing knowledge
- To demonstrate the ability to effectively address different audiences and contexts, in speech and writing, both within and outside the classroom
- To cultivate the ability to articulate and assess the effects of the choices you make in your writing

An outstanding cover letter will indicate with specificity where elements of your final portfolio demonstrate the course goals and build a compelling argument for how they do so. In this manner, it will display thorough and thoughtful awareness of the knowledge-making you have done this quarter, supporting and contextualizing claims and assertions with evidence from the course readings, class discussions, and prior assignments/activities by quoting or paraphrasing from these materials.

### EVALUATION

See "Final Portfolio Overview"

### FORMAT

- 1½-2 single-spaced pages
- block letter formatting

**DUE BEFORE 5PM, WED 12/13/06, BY EMAIL**