January 2023 Volume 138 Number 1

# PMLA

Publications of the Modern Language Association of America



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educational system nevertheless leaves young people III-prepared to meet the challenges of the real world. In his New York Times editorial 'It's Not about You," Brooks illustrates excessive		Writer's Help X
supervision and uncontrolled individualistic metoric as opposing problems that complicate		6 Making a Thesis Statement Substantive.
young people's entry into adult life, which then becomes less of a natural progression than an		Grounded, and Assertive
outright paradigm shift, Brooks's argument itself mimics the pattern of moving from "perversely		-BOOK NOTEBOOK
structured' youth to "unprecedentedly wide open" adulthood: it operates on the basis of binary	C Thesis	ABOOK HOILBOOK
oppositions, raising familiar notions about how to live one's life and then dismanting them.	© Needs Work	
Throughout, the piece relies less on factual evidence than on Brooks's own authoritative tone	Thesis does not present a critical response to	Making a Thesis
and skill in using rhetorical devices.	Delaye.	Statement
In his editorial, Brooks objects to mainstream cultural messages that sell students on	Additional Comment	Substantive
individuality, but bases his conclusions more on general observations than on specific facts.	Your thesis is too broad. Consider some strategies for focusing it on the most	
its argument is, in itself, a loose form of rhetorical analysis, it opens by telling us to "sample	impactful claims in your argument	A thesis statement makes a
ome of the commencement addresses being broadcast on C-Span these days," where we will		claim, which is the main point the writer wants readers to understand and take seriously.
ind messages such as: "Policy your passion, charl your own course, march to the beat	Resources  • Making a Thesis Statement	
f your own drummer, follow your dreams and find yourself." As though moving down a	Substantive, Grounded, and Assertive	It clearly expresses the writer's
becklat, it then scrutinizes the problems with this rhetoric of "expressive individualism."	Scalegies for Drafting a Thesis     What is a Thesis Statement?	attitude toward the topic. It is
Peralty, it haves to Abul Gaseander's "countercultural address" about working collectively, en route		the map that convinces readers
a conflorting the individualism of modern America. C-Span and Harvard Medical School	@ Based on this comment, i'm going to	to make the journey through the writer's ideas.
side, however, Brooka's argument is astonishingly short on external sources. He cites no	Narrow my thesis 40	Life wither a poest.
asis for claims such as "this year's graduates are members of the most supervised generation	+ Add another role	Readers want to comprehend
n American history" or "most successful young people don't look inside and then plan a life,"	T AN INVESTIG	the material quickly. If they are
Septe the fact that these claims are fundamental to his observations. Instead, his argument	<ul> <li>I'm not going to use this feedback because</li> </ul>	familiar with the claim, they are unlikely to read the rest of
versuades through painting a picture first of "limitiess possibilities," then of young men and	Decause	are uninkely to read the rest of the essay carefully. If the thesis
comes called into action by problems that "summon their life" and hoping that we will find	and a second	is too obvious, readers will not
he illustration familiar		see its value. A thesis has to
		······································

Name	Writer's Submissions		Peer Review Submissions			Actions	
	Draft Completed	Reviews Received	View	Reviews Completed	View	Instructor Comment Sent on Peer Review	
Bianca Buzzword	January 26, 2022	0/2 O		0/2 O	-	Excuse from Draft	
Eleanor Example	January 25, 2022	0/2 O	E	0/2 O	-	Allow Resubmit	
Max Wordcount	January 25, 2022	0/2 O	E	0/2 O	-	-	
Group 3							
Name	Writer's Submissions			Peer Review S	ubmissions		Action
	Writer's Submissions Draft Completed	Reviews Received	View	Peer Review S Reviews Completed	ubmissions View	Instructor Comment Sent on Peer Review	Action
			View	Reviews			Action:
Name	Draft Completed	Received		Reviews Completed	View	Sent on Peer Review	Action:

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#### Submitting Manuscripts to PMLA

#### **Editorial Policy for Essays**

*PMLA* welcomes essays of interest to those concerned with the study of language and literature. As the publication of a large and heterogeneous association, the journal is receptive to a variety of topics, whether general or specific, and to all scholarly methods and theoretical perspectives. The ideal *PMLA* essay exemplifies the best of its kind, whatever the kind; addresses a significant problem; draws out clearly the implications of its findings; and engages the attention of its audience through a concise, readable presentation.

#### Eligibility

To be eligible for review, manuscripts must meet the following requirements:

*MLA membership*. Authors must be members of the MLA. (For a collaboratively written essay to be eligible for review, all coauthors must be members of the MLA.)

*Author anonymity.* Authors should not refer to themselves in the first person in the submitted text or notes if such references would identify them; any necessary references to the author's previous work, for example, should be in the third person.

*Word length.* Articles must be between 6,000 and 9,000 words. The word count includes discursive notes but excludes works-cited lists and translations.

*Originality.* Articles cannot have been previously published in any language. An article is considered previously published if it appears in print or in an online outlet with the traits of publication, such as editorial selection of content, a formal presentation, and ongoing availability. Online contexts that typically lack these traits include personal web pages, discussion groups, and repositories.

*Exclusive submission*. Articles cannot be under consideration by other journals or publishers. An article found to have been simultaneously submitted elsewhere will not be published in *PMLA* even if it has already been accepted for publication by the Editorial Board.

*Language*. Manuscripts in languages other than English must be accompanied by a detailed summary in English (generally of 1,000 to 1,500 words) and must be translated into English if they are recommended to the Editorial Board. Translations should accompany all foreign language quotations.

*Scope. PMLA* does not publish book reviews or new works of fiction. Submissions should be broadly of interest to those concerned with the study of language and literature.

*Quality. PMLA* publishes the best of its kind. Works that demonstrate egregious signs of poor quality (e.g., lack of scholarly apparatus when relevant, evidence of extreme carelessness in preparation) cannot be sent for review.

#### Forthcoming in PMLA

#### IN THE MARCH ISSUE

- ANNE MARIE THOMPSON. "Intimate Editing: The Textual Poetics of Susan Howe's Collage Poems"
- ALEXANDRA BROWN. "404 Utopia Not Found: Cyberpunk Avatars in Samanta Schweblin's *Kentukis*"
- ANTHONY CORDINGLEY. "Puritan Genealogies: Robert Lowell, Perry Miller, and the Postwar Jonathan Edwards"
- ALLAN HEPBURN. "Sound, Interrogation, Torture: John le Carré and the Audible State"
- DOYLE CALHOUN. "Variations on Verrition: (Re)Turning to the Enigmatic Final Word of Aimé Césaire's Cahier d'un retour au pays natal"
- CARMEN NOCENTELLI. "Rereading *Elizabeth I as Europa*"

#### Little-Known Documents

W. E. B. DU BOIS. "A Creed for the 'New Negro" and "A Negro on Etiquet of Caste." Introduction by Martha Patterson

#### Criticism in Translation

NAZIK AL-MALA'IKA. "The Social Roots of the Arabic Free Verse Movement." Introduction and translation by Qussay Al-Attabi AHMET HAMDI TANPINAR. "Letter to a Young Girl from Antalya." Introduction and translation by Shaj Mathew and Selin Ünlüönen

#### **Theories and Methodologies**

Commentaries on Abdulrazak Gurnah Essays by Nasia Anam, Delali Kumavi, Emad Mirmotahari, Esther Pujolràs Noguer, Meg Samuelson, and Tina Steiner

#### Submission Procedures

*MLA style*. Manuscripts should follow MLA style as set out in the most recent edition of the *MLA Handbook*. The MLA urges its contributors to be sensitive to the social implications of language and to seek wording free of discriminatory overtones.

*Cover sheet.* Authors' names should not appear on manuscripts; instead, a cover sheet, with the author's name and address and the title of the article, should accompany each manuscript.

*Permissions*. If the contribution includes any materials (e.g., quotations that exceed fair use, illustrations, charts, other graphics) that have been taken from another source, the author must obtain written permission to reproduce them in print and electronic formats.

Please submit manuscripts (as *Word* files) through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla).

#### **Review Process**

Each article submitted and eligible for peer review is sent to at least two reviewers. Articles recommended by these readers are then sent to the members of the Editorial Board, who meet periodically with the editor to make final decisions. Until a final decision is reached, the author's name is not made known to readers, to members of the Editorial Board, or to the editor. For detailed information on the review process for submitted essays, please send an inquiry to pmlasubmissions@mla.org.

#### Features in PMLA

#### Criticism in Translation

MLA members are invited to submit to the *PMLA* Editorial Board proposals for translations. Articles, as well as chapters or sections of books that can function as independent units, will be considered. The originals may be in any language. Two types of proposals are welcome: (1) significant scholarship from earlier periods that has not lost its forcefulness and whose retrieval in English in *PMLA* would be a noteworthy event for a broad body of readers and (2) contemporary work of sufficient weight and potential influence to merit the attention of the field as a whole.

A member who wishes to make a proposal should first ascertain that no previous English translation exists. The proposer should then submit the following materials through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla): (1) a photocopy of the original essay, (2) an extended summary of the entire essay in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 1,000 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style and submitted as a *Word* file, that will be

#### Forthcoming in PMLA

#### IN OTHER ISSUES

- SARI ALTSCHULER. "Babo's 'Mute'-ny: Deaf Culture and Black Testimony in Antebellum America"
- TAMLYN AVERY. "Passing as White-Collar: The Black Typewriter and the Bureaucratization of the Racial Imaginary"
- KARL BERGLUND AND SARAH ALLISON. "Larsson, Remade: A Computational Perspective on the Millennium Trilogy in English"
- JESSE CORDES SELBIN. "The Global New Woman and the Invention of Modern Feminism"
- KAREN EMMERICH. "Translating for Language Justice, across the Disciplines"
- ERIK FREDNER AND J. D. PORTER. "Counting on the Norton Anthology of American Literature"
- RACHEL GALVIN. "Mónica de la Torre: Self-Translated"
- TAJ GOLDFAJN. "Tanga, Tunic, Cleaver: On Things in Translation"
- DAVID HARRISON. "Fidelity, Betrayal, and Desire: Translating *La Princesse de Clèves*"
- SELINA LAI-HENDERSON. "'YOU Are No Darker Than I Am': *The Souls of Black Folk* in Maoist China"
- SPENCER LEE-LENFIELD. "Victorian Poetry and Classical Verse Composition: On Translation as Affiliation"
- OLIVIA LOTT. "(In)Subordination: (Pseudo) Translation and the Cultural Cold War in Juan Gelman's *The Poems of Sidney West*"
- XIAOLU MA. "Cultural Brokerage: Japan as an Intermediary in the Journey of Russian Literature to China" JANE MIKKELSON AND TIMOTHY
- HARRISON. "Worlds Together Shined': Bidel, Traherne, and Collaborative Comparison"
- COLLEEN ROSENFELD. "The Contingency of Form in Renaissance Poetics"
- ELIZABETH RUSS. "Telling Other Stories: Dominican Black Cosmopolitanism in Aída Cartagena Portalatín's *Tablero*"

(continued)

published with the essay if the essay is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the translation is accepted for publication, the proposer will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, a 1,000-word sample of the translation should be submitted (as a *Word* file). The proposer may either serve as translator of the essay or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member).

The translated essays should normally not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit. The Editorial Board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations.

#### Little-Known Documents

MLA members are invited to submit to the *PMLA* Editorial Board proposals regarding little-known documentary material that merits the attention of a broad range of readers. Consideration will be given to archival data from any period and in any language that do not exceed *PMLA*'s 9,000-word limit.

A member who wishes to make a proposal should send submit the following material through *PMLA*'s ScholarOne site (mc.manuscriptcentral.com/pmla): (1) a photocopy of the document, (2) an extended summary of the document in English, (3) an introductory statement of approximately 1,000 words, prepared in accordance with MLA style and submitted as a *Word* file, that will be published with the document if it is accepted, (4) information on the copyright status of the original (if the document is accepted for publication, the proposer will be responsible for obtaining permission to print it). In addition, if the document is not in English, the proposal should include a 1,000-word sample of the translation. The proposer may either serve as translator of the document or designate a translator (who must also be an MLA member). The Editorial Board will approve or decline the proposals and evaluate the quality of the translations, if applicable.

#### **Special Topics**

From time to time the *PMLA* Editorial Board invites essays on special topics designed to attract a wide readership. These groupings allow dialogue among essays and encourage in-depth investigation of the selected subjects. Special topics appear about once every three years and are composed primarily of full-length essays that go through the regular *PMLA* review process; in addition, coordinators write an introduction to the topic and can commission up to two full-length essays and material for Theories and Methodologies and The Changing Profession (among other sections of the journal), to round out the submissions received through peer review.

### Forthcoming in PMLA (continued)

SHADEN TAGELDIN. "Hugo, Translated: The Measures of Modernity in Rūḥī al-Khālidī's Poetics of Comparative Literature"

MICHAEL TAYLOR AND REBECCA PURSE. "What Shall It Profit a Man': Reporting Indigenous Resilience at Wounded Knee through the Journalism of Susette Bright Eyes La Flesche"

LAWRENCE VENUTI. "On a Universal Tendency to Debase Retranslations; or, The Instrumentalism of a Translation Fixation"

ROBERT VOLPICELLI. "Countee Cullen's Harlem Decadence"

PENNY YEUNG. "'No More Translations': Uncounting Languages in Yoko Tawada's *Memoirs of a Polar Bear*"

#### Criticism in Translation

JEAN AMROUCHE. "The Myth of France, and France in Reality: Some Bitter Home Truths." Introduction and translation by Nicholas Harrison

#### Little-Known Documents

- MARIAMA BÂ. "Festac . . . Memories of Lagos." Introduction and translation by Tobias Warner
- by Tobias Warner FRANZ KAFKA. "'Man-Eater' Variant to 'A Hunger-Artist." Introduction and translation by C. F. S. Creasy
- HARRIET BEECHER STOWE. "The Captain's Story." Introduction by Ellen Gruber Garvey

#### **Special Features**

Each fall, the *PMLA* Editorial Board welcomes proposals for clusters of essays on a topic of wide interest, to appear in the following special features: Theories and Methodologies, which addresses a timely issue or recent work of scholarship, and The Changing Profession, which takes up new and emerging fields in the humanities. Please visit the MLA website for more details about proposing special features for the journal (www.mla.org/PMLA-Submissions).