



## Week Two Writing Assignment

Please **email** me your paper in MS Word format sometime before 5 p.m. on Monday, September 5.

One skill worth developing is the ability to lay out another person's position and arguments as clearly as possible. It is very difficult to do some of things one aims to do in an essay — e.g., successfully criticize someone's view — without first clearly summarizing the person's position and arguments for that position. Think about this exercise as writing the first part of a good critical essay.

Please write **one page or so** on the following question:

In her convocation address, Debbie Burke describes exciting advances in the scientific understanding of the mind. What feature or features does Burke attribute to the mind?

We can rephrase the question this way: Burke clearly thinks that science is illuminating the nature of something. According to Burke, what is the something that science is telling us about? What is the phenomenon (or phenomena) under scientific investigation? Is there a single feature, phenomenon, capacity, etc. she attributes to the mind, or are there many? If there are many, try to distinguish them as carefully as you can.

You should aim to give a *clearer* and *more precise* formulation than Burke herself. No quotations.

- Professor Burke's convocation address, "Passions of the Mind," is available online at <http://www.pomona.edu/adwr/president/convocation05-burke.shtml>. There's a link to the address on the course website.

### **Mechanics**

I want to be able to read what you've written, so please use a large, easy to read font (12 point Times); double spacing; standard margins; page numbers; and correct spelling and grammar.

This is not a complete essay, so you do not need an introduction or a conclusion.