

Memo Assignment
"The Lottery"
50 points

Assignment: E-mail a memo to either *The New Yorker* in 1948 objecting to their printing of "The Lottery", or, to Kay Haugaard in response to her article, "Suspending Moral Judgment."

Be sure to write it in a memo style (see below) and give strong foundations to your opinions. Include text from the story or article. Be sure it is a minimum of 250 words.

E-mail your work to mrcoia@hotmail.com by **Thursday, 1/ 25**.
No late work will be accepted.

The diagram shows an email memo with several annotations pointing to specific parts of the text:

- To: Kay Haugaard**
From: Ron Coia
Re: Is there too much tolerance?
- Annotation:** "Be sure these are aligned neatly" points to the header information.
- Annotation:** "Do not indent paragraphs" points to the first paragraph of the body text.
- Annotation:** "Skip lines between paragraphs" points to the space between the second and third paragraphs.
- Annotation:** "Do not sign your name or give a salutation" points to the final sentence of the memo.

The body text of the memo is as follows:

I was dismayed to read your assessment of tolerance in America today. You seem to give broad, sweeping strokes of opinion that lack substantial evidence. For example, you cited a few students in your class and made it appear that all college students believe that an atrocious event like the ritualistic murder in "The Lottery" could occur unprotested today. Do you really believe that is the case? If you want to make such statements, more evidence is required. Where do you research this? Why haven't you included any other sources besides your own senses?

No matter what that group of quoted students presented to you, I doubt that even they would accept the tradition of "The Lottery." For example, doesn't it seem evident that college students are perhaps the most socially outspoken group of people in our society? Do you really believe that tolerance has taught us to sit and be silent? Perhaps this is true in a classroom where differing ideas are present, but it would not be the case when it involves human life.

You quoted a student if it is acceptable for a religion to practice a human sacrifice. Beth responded, "I really don't know. If it was a religion of long standing..." This is an example of a poor sampling of public opinion. Americans simply do not believe this way. Take a look around. Read the papers. Watch what is accepted in prime-time television. People are not friendly toward religions that DO NOT practice human sacrifices; how do you think they would respond to those that do?

I hope that you will consider doing more research before making such outlandish and unproven claims.