

American Literature  
*The Ballad of Spanish Fork*  
Essay Questions

Directions: Each group member must choose a different one of the following writing assignments concerned with issues raised in Chapter 12: *The Ballad of Spanish Fork*

1. A ballad is a narrative poem, often set to music. Traditionally, ballads have been used to record memorable events in the life of a community. Find three examples of traditional ballads and compose a "Ballad of Spanish Fork." Use rhyming verses to describe the events of the story in sequential order. Write a refrain, or chorus, that highlights the main theme. Read or sing your ballad to the class. (Two students may choose this assignment.)
2. Trying to understand opinions we disagree with is often just as important as forming our own opinions clearly. Write a one-page position paper on the following resolution: "The 'don't ask, don't tell' policy toward homosexuals in the military violates the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of expression." Then switch sides and repeat the exercise. (Yes, this means writing two essays.)
3. Read the document "United We Stand." Assume the role of Rachel Smith, and write a letter to Coretta Scott King in response to her support of civil rights for gays and lesbians.
4. Pretend you are a reporter for the Salt Lake City Gazette. Write an article covering the day of Judge Jenkins' ruling. Provide background information, quotations from key players, and a description of the "victory party."