

Outline

Prescribed question:

Text and genre: “How has the text borrowed from other texts, and with what effects?”

Title of text for analysis:

Nickel and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich. New York: Henry Holt, 2001. 51-119. Print.

Task is related to course section:

Part 3: Literature – texts and contexts

Task focus:

This essay focuses on Ehrenreich’s choices as far as tone and writing style are concerned.

The essay claims that Ehrenreich’s text exploits features of descriptive narrative and anecdotal texts, and also of scientific or formal academic texts. The text is mainly an anecdotal narrative, but the writer’s use of many figures and ‘hard facts’ is designed to make the text seem highly reliable, and to influence the reader towards seeing it as a piece of scientific research.

The use of footnotes, which are not usually found in literary prose narrative, reinforces this impression. The writing style in the footnotes is quite different to the main body, being less emotional and personal, and more factual and objective.