

Writing Section Task 1 - Kaplan

ASSIGNMENT ONE

Ernest Hemingway

Pulitzer Prize-winning American author Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961) received no shortage of praise and reward for his work as a writer and journalist. However, a more balanced and objective appraisal of his writing is long overdue. Although the quantity and scope of his work is admirable and rightly celebrated, Hemingway's subject matter and stylistic obsessions limit the ultimate artistic value of his work.

A basic platform for the criticism of his works is the material he chose for his fiction and nonfiction. Hemingway worked as a journalist, briefly in Kansas City, and then in Chicago, Toronto, and most famously Paris and Spain. As a journalist, he showed an admirable interest in many subjects, such as war and modern art, and a willingness to travel. However, he relied too heavily on his own experiences. All of his best novels, such as *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*, are extremely autobiographical. Moreover, Hemingway tried to paint a falsely heroic picture of himself in his reporting. As a result, his fiction is far too personal and his nonfiction seems unrealistic.

Moreover, Hemingway's rhetorical style is too simple for a supposed master. A lack of rhetorical devices makes Hemingway's works undeserving of the abundant praise they have received. Hemingway's fear of adjectives and his preference for limited, basic description shows a lack of style and imagination. Without rhetorical sophistication, a writer merely records events.

Related to this simplicity in writing style is the simplicity with which Hemingway constructed his characters. His portrayal of women is especially inaccurate. His female characters are purposefully one-dimensional due to his inherent distrust of the fairer sex. Feminists

correctly find many of Hemingway's stories distasteful and complain that he had little understanding of the female mind.

[Play Track 43.](#)

Now listen to part of a lecture on the topic you just read about.

Notes

Directions: You have 20 minutes to plan and write your response. Your response will be judged on the basis of the quality of your writing and how well your response relates the points in the lecture to those in the reading. Typically, an effective response will be 150 to 225 words. Summarize the points made in the lecture, explaining how they relate to the points made in the reading. Use specific examples and details from both passages in your answer.