

Prologue: A First-Year Writing Journal

Volume 5

Article 3

2013

Commentary on "Twain's Mythic West"

Joshua Rager
Denison University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.denison.edu/prologue>



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Rager, Joshua (2013) "Commentary on "Twain's Mythic West"," *Prologue: A First-Year Writing Journal*: Vol. 5 , Article 3.
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.denison.edu/prologue/vol5/iss1/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Prologue: A First-Year Writing Journal by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.

Carole Burkett's Twain's Mythic West exemplifies how much can be accomplished in a short 4-5 paper. These are typical assignments at Denison and as such, Burkett's paper correctly handles the succinctness and concision that these demand. Twain's Mythic West begins with a clear-cut and reasonable thesis which isn't overbearing for a paper of this length and the thesis both structures and guides the rest of the essay. Once this is done, Burkett is able to appropriately execute her arguments through insightful quotations and connecting various segments of Mark Twain's work. The complexity of Burkett's essay lies in the risk she takes in suggesting not only is Twain's book satirical but it may in fact be a direct result of his own failures and the failures of so many others in the days of Manifest Destiny. In our workshop together, Carole and I worked on building a conclusion which puts Twain and her thesis in a larger context and asks the question what the relevance and significance of her thesis is to big picture ideas.

-Joshua Rager, Writing Center Consultant