

# Essay 1 (3-4 pages)

**Group A:** Draft Due Thursday of Week 2  
Revision due Friday of Week 2

**Group B:** Draft Due Thursday of Week 3  
Revision Due Friday of Week 3

## Available Texts:

Borges, "The Library of Babel," *Ficciones*

Calvino, "Cybernetics and Ghosts," *The Uses of Literature*

Various, *Oulipo Packet 1 & 2*

Your first essay already has a limited thematic scope as we've focused almost entirely on the Oulipo—with the rather Oulipo-like exception of "The Library of Babel."



So.

For your first essay, choose two creative works and one essay from our first first two weeks of readings and develop an answer to **one** of the following questions:

1. What is the effect and value of using mathematical constraints in the creation of literary texts?

2. In what ways does "thinking mathematically" relate to the study of literary texts?

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