

**Essay 3**  
**Lioi/21W.746**

**Metaphor and Illness**

You are a scriptwriter for a soap opera called *Good, Sexy Doctors*, or a drama called *Good, Sexy Doctors on Call*, or a comedy called *Those Wacky, Good, Sexy Doctors*. You must write a scene in which young Doctor Yu (get it?) must explain to some extremely sympathetic character, such as Young Mother, or Vulnerable Newcomer to the US, or Plucky Whippersnapper, that he or she has contracted a serious disease with a social stigma of some kind. Dr. Yu's boss, Dr. Sontag, has left strict instructions that doctors in *her* hospital are to make such explanations without the use of metaphor.

This assignment has three parts:

Part 1: A scientific description of the disease, drawn from reputable professional/academic sources. The description should include an etiology of the disease; a description of its stages, if any; a typical prognosis; and a recommended course of treatment. Included should be a note describing the social stigma of the disease, its source, degree, and potential effects. (1 page)

Part 2: Script: Must include Dr. Yu and patient. Add characters as necessary. (2-3 pages)

Part 3: A report from Dr. Yu to Dr. Sontag, justifying the use or non-use of metaphor in your discussion. [This is the moment to show your understanding of Sontag's argument.] (1-2 pages)