

Grade 9-10

Expository Composition

(Bless Me, Ultima) Persuasive Herbal Medicine Essay

**Writing Situation:**

In *Bless Me, Ultima*, Antonio and Ultima spend a lot of time collecting herbs and treating people with various ailments. Ultima, a curandera, is labeled a witch and ultimately dies as a result of one man's witch-hunt for her. Today, some people see modern day herbalists, acupuncturists, and other holistic healing doctors as "witches" who are just out to make a quick buck without really helping anybody. Traditional medicine as found in hospitals, however, is sometimes based upon the administration of drugs that are later found to have rather negative side effects. Choosing a method of treatment when you are ill has become a very personal choice that may or may not be based solely on a doctor's recommendation. People are more and more frequently turning to non-traditional forms of treatment, as is provided by herbalists, acupuncturists, and other holistic healing doctors. Which kind of healing is the best and should we have the right to choose the method we think is best?

**Writing Directions:**

Write an essay in which you either support or reject herbal medicines as a better way to cure people than traditional methods used in a hospital. Your aim in this essay is to persuade your readers that your position is correct. In order to do this, they must believe your reasons to be reasonable and logical. Use evidence, facts, logic, anecdotes, analogies, or hypothetical situations to support your position and convince your reader that your method of treatment is the best. In your attempts to persuade the reader, be sure to include opposing opinions and prove them wrong via strong support.

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