

ESSAY #2 SEQUENCE: RESEARCH/INVESTIGATIVE ESSAY

All pre-writing exercises (see p.2) and essays should be sent over email to the instructor with print copies submitted in class.

Due Dates: Fri. 10/2: Essay Proposal, Version 1: (see p. 2 for description)-

Library Session: Tues. 10/6 (in DIRC-14N-132): (Bring laptops)

Thurs. 10/8: Peer Review of Proposals: (Bring SIX copies)

Revised Essay Proposal: Fri. 10/16 –see p.2 –

History/Background Section and Outline (two files) – Mon. 10/26 by noon

First Version: Mon. 11/2-at least 2000 words (8 pg.) with cover letter.

Workshop:

Revision: Mon. 11/23 - with revision cover letter. **Bold changes.**

Suggested length for revision: 2500-3000 words (10-12 pg.), typed, double-spaced, plus bibliography, cover letter and photo/visual appendix. Attach a revision cover letter. Use MLA format for citation and bibliography. We will review this in class.

This assignment is an investigative or research essay, which asks you to present different perspectives on a specific social or ethical issue of your own choice. This assignment challenges you as a writer to work with and compare various perspectives and sources. We might think of “different perspectives” as contrasting lenses through which to view a social or ethical problem. These lenses might be political (e.g., comparing opposing stances on gun control) or economic, sociological or psychological (e.g., comparing different causal explanations for homelessness in the U.S. or another country).

In your research for this essay, you should consult at least ten secondary academic sources such as books and journal articles. In addition to these sources, you also have the option of drawing upon other popular media sources (newspapers, magazines, documentary films). *Wikipedia*, because of its uneven quality, is not acceptable as a source, although it can serve as a valuable starting point to discover a bibliography of relevant sources.

In the revision, you are also asked to include visual aids such as timelines, maps, charts, graphs, photographs, drawings or political cartoons. If you include visual aids within a print text, these are supplementary to the required word count/page length.

The writing challenges of essay #2 are:

*prewriting: defining and narrowing your topic; figuring out various angles on the issue;

*pre-writing: working with secondary sources: note-taking and summarizing;

*drafting/revising: establishing a context (social or historical) for understanding the importance of your issue; clearly, fairly and comparatively presenting different points of view, drawing upon secondary sources;

*drafting/revising: establishing an engaging style, maintaining your voice as a writer.

While crafting this essay, remember that your role as a writer can be (a) to educate your readership and deepen their understanding without taking a stand or (b) to support a particular perspective, while presenting the opposing argument(s) adequately and fairly.

Required Pre-Essay Writing Exercises and Due Dates

Fri. 10/2: Essay Proposal, Version One: Submit a 1-2 pg. typed proposal with a working bibliography of at least FIVE secondary sources. In the proposal, tell the reader (a) why you've chosen the topic and how you identify the different perspectives and (b) why you feel the topic would be meaningful for a wider audience. Define any "keyterms" that you use. (For example, if you are writing about the debate about affirmative action, you need to define "affirmative action.")

Bibliographies must include, for each source, author, title of book or article, place and date of publication (and journal title/edition, if relevant). For online sources, include this information with URL below it. Bibliographies, which only list URLs, are unacceptable. See sample bibliography for reference.

Tues. 10/6: Library session in DIRC (14N-132). **Bring laptops and SIX copies of your proposal for peer review.**

Fri. 10/16: Revised Essay Proposal: Make necessary changes to your proposal (responding to comments) and add sources to the bibliography, using resources from the class library session and the library course web page. You should have at least TEN academic sources in the revised proposal. Include two or three ideas of types of visual aids (e.g., timelines, maps, documentary photographs).

Mon. 10/26 by noon: History/Background section with Bibliography (2 pages) and Outline (two separate files). All research essays of this type have a short history/background section (e.g., history of the affirmative action debate). The history/background section should have citations for all facts and quotes included. Citations (in MLA format) should appear in the text and in the bibliography; consult handouts from class. For your history/background section, you need to cite at least three academic sources by different authors (no Wikipedia). We will review strategies for writing the history/background section, citing sources and creating an outline in class.



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21W.011 Writing and Rhetoric: Rhetoric and Contemporary Issues
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