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English 1102 assignments: article analysis, expository essay, and argumentative essay

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Article Analysis

Rough Draft Due: February 5th

Final Draft Due: February 7th

The Article Analysis is worth 10% of your grade (100 points).

You must choose a topic that you are interested in writing your Expository and Argumentative essays about. This topic needs to be controversial in nature; many different points of view should be readily available so that you can find plenty of current sources and write an argumentative essay.

Once you choose your topic, you need to start your research. You will choose one article about the topic you are researching and write a three-page analysis of the article. This assignment must have the following elements:

1. The citation for the article in proper MLA format attached at the end of the essay as a Work Cited page
2. The thesis of the article
3. A summary of the article (depending on the nature of the article, this will be a summary of an author's argument or description of information the author gives)
4. A detailed analysis of the article. Use the guidelines on pages 156-158 in your *Everyday Writer* (section 18a-18b) to analyze the essay and determine whether or not this will be a good source to use for your Expository and/or Argumentative essay.
5. Introduction: Who wrote the article and when, where it came from/how you found it, and what the purpose and thesis of the article are.
6. Body paragraphs: they should include sections 3 and 4 listed above.
7. Conclusion: do you plan on using this article for your future assignments? Why or why not? Are you changing topics or sticking with the one you have chosen based on your preliminary findings in this article?

When you start writing, consider a few things:

- Audience: for whom am I writing?
Your audience is uninformed about your topic and the article. Therefore, you must give plenty of details about the article so that your audience understands it without having to read it. You may use first person in the conclusion, but use third throughout essay. Avoid contractions.
- Purpose: to evaluate. You need to find out if this topic is one you want to write about the entire semester, and you need to learn how to effectively find and evaluate sources.
- Verbs
Avoid passive voice and to be verbs. This will make your writing more vivid, concise, and clear. Using active voice will eliminate any vagueness that passive voice incurs.

*Please feel free to set up an appointment for me to go over your rough draft, introduction, or any part of your essay where you need help.

Expository Essay

Rough Draft Due: October 24th

Final Draft Due: October 26th

The Expository Essay is worth 200% of your grade (200 points). You will present background information by summarizing the various points of views about a controversial topic. Do not use your opinion in this essay. You must have a correct works cited page and cite all information correctly in your paper. This essay must be four pages long and use at least three outside sources.

When you start writing, consider a few things:

- Audience: for whom am I writing?
Imagine that you are writing for an audience that does not know anything about the topic you are researching. It is your job to make sure that readers understand background information, history, and any key definitions. Since this is not a personal essay, and therefore more formal, avoid first person and contractions.
- Purpose: to inform. That's it. Do not argue!
- Verbs: Avoid passive voice and to be verbs. This will make your writing more vivid, concise, and clear. And using active voice will not allow you to leave out pertinent information.
- Thesis: because this paper informs rather than argues or demonstrates a point, you don't need to worry about coming up with a thesis statement per se. Your thesis can state the overall topic
- Citations: your works cited page and parenthetical citations must be correct. Use your Everyday Writer as a your guide. Also, if you have questions about how to cite something you must let me know. We will discuss plagiarism in class, but it is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you understand how to avoid it. If you are unclear about how to avoid plagiarism you must let me know. If you do not say anything I will assume you understand.

Argumentative Essay

Rough Draft Due: April 11th

Final Draft Due: April 13th

The Argumentative Essay is worth 15% of your grade (150 points). You will now argue for a specific viewpoint concerning the topic from the Expository Essay. You must choose one of the six types of arguments discussed in class and write your argument according to that style. You must have a correct works cited page and cite all information correctly in your paper. This essay must be 4 pages long and use four outside sources.

When you start writing, consider a few things:

- Audience: for whom am I writing?
Your audience will depend on the type of argument that you choose to write (see descriptions of arguments). Since this is not a personal essay, and therefore more formal, avoid first person and contractions.
- Purpose: your purpose will depend on the type of argument you are writing. See handout.
- Verbs: Again, verb usage will depend on the type of argument you are writing.
- Thesis: You must have a specific, detailed thesis. The thesis will be either in your introduction or conclusion depending on the type of argument you write.
- Citations: your works cited page and parenthetical citations must be correct. Use your Everyday Writer as your guide. Also, if you have questions about how to cite something you must let me know. We will discuss plagiarism in class, but it is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you understand how to avoid it. If you are unclear about how to avoid plagiarism you must let me know. If you do not say anything I will assume you understand.