

English 106 Connor
Fall 2009
Major Assignment One: Research Paper

Description

You will write a research paper about a Utopia. The utopia can be a social, political or economic ideal, practical or impractical, on a small or large scale. For example, the utopia could be a corporate ideal such as a Fordist community, a government policy such as the current health care proposal, or political ideal such as libertarianism or socialism. The bottom line, the utopia should aim to make the world a better place, meaning that there are problems that the utopia is addressing. Explore the climate that would be ripe for this kind of utopia and what solution the utopia is proposing. You will then argue whether the utopia is a good contribution to society or if there are any signs or dangers of it becoming a dystopia.

Your paper should include a clearly stated thesis statement, well-researched support for your position, and a consideration of possible refutations of your argument. One way to approach this paper is to consider that you are attempting to answer a research question, answering a problem with a solution. You may draw parallels to *Brave New World*, *Maus*, or other works of literature. You will use the research that you've completed to argue your position, demonstrate the knowledge you've gained, and create a coherent, convincing argument.

Objectives

In this project, you will use research to write a persuasive essay that addresses an issue that is important to you. In doing this, you will learn to effectively articulate and support a complex argument, use sources to support your argument, and consider possible counterarguments. Moreover, in this project you will use multimedia to make an argument that addresses the values and concerns of your chosen audience.

Deliverables

- Persuasive Paper prospectus due **Tuesday, September 8th** (5%)
- Persuasive Paper rough draft (900 words) due **Friday, September 18th** (5%)
- Persuasive Paper final draft (1500-2000 words), with MLA-style citations and Works Cited due **Monday, September 28th** (10%)

Grading

The Persuasive Paper will be worth 20% of your grade.

Evaluation

The successful Persuasive Paper will:

- Address an issue of importance and argue for a clearly defined position on that issue
- Consider a real audience who cares about this issue, and address the argument to this audience
- Include well-researched arguments in favor of the author's position: at least 6 sources
- Consider counterarguments: at least 3 sources
- Cite sources in MLA format in the paper and on a Works Cited page