

## SCAFFOLDED ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

The whole scaffolded essay is worth 50% of your overall grade. Each assignment will be given with the % of your overall grade that it is worth.

### **PART 1:**

Moodle Essay Pitches [5%]

Write a forum post in which you present 2-3 topics to pitch me (if you are unsure of your ideas, pitch 3 at minimum 300 words each; if you're more confident, pitch 2 ideas--minimum 450 words each). The more specific and better-researched your idea is, the more confidently I will be able to give you the go-ahead.

- Describe your topic, and the ‘public conversation’ you want to address. The ‘public conversation’ should be something that you think needs to be addressed and discussed in the public sphere. Tell me why this discussion is important. It does not necessarily need to be a “contemporary” topic, but you must explain why it is relevant or useful for us to discuss now.
- Describe the personal dimension, or the unique/new perspective you will take on that topic. Tell me why your essay will add something to the public discussion of this topic.

Better pitches will be more specific and less general: I want to have enough information that I can confidently tell you which idea is best and which you can do.

For more feedback, post your forum by end of day **DATE**

For less feedback, post your forum by end of day **DATE**

To be efficient and get ahead on the next assignment, I recommend that you collect a couple good articles as your research your pitches.

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### **PART 2:**

Moodle Research Report [5%]

Post a moodle forum presenting your research (so far) into your topic.

Write a numbered list of 4-8 **properly documented** sources you will use (academic articles, essays, online documentaries, interviews, historical background), with a 1-2 sentence description of how you are using each source for your essay (this is not a summary of the article, just tell me how you are going to use it). Document them using MLA, APA, or Chicago styles. **DO NOT** cut and paste a URL.

You may use two video sources (documentaries) but not more (unless you have more than 8 sources)

Your grade will be based on:

- the number and quality of your sources
- your explanation of how you will use the sources in your essay
- proper documentation

Due **DATE**

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PART 3:

Rough Draft [10%] –You are the author

Post a rough draft of your essay, 1500 words, due by end of day **DATE**

(For the next assignment, 2 assigned students will comment on your draft, based on the lecture I give on "How to be an editor".)

You will be graded on:

- how much work you have put in
- how well developed your argument is
- how unique your angle onto your thesis is
- how well you've used your research

You will NOT, yet, be graded on the quality of the writing.

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PART 4:

Peer Editing exercise [5% + 5%=10%] –You are the editor

You will edit and comment on two other students' rough drafts, from the previous assignment. It is mandatory to be present for my lecture on "How to be an editor"—those who are absent without legitimate, well-documented reasons will be penalized.

Editors comment by "replying" to the author's rough draft post (from the last moodle assignment).

The authors of the essays will read the editors comments, and give each of the 2 editors a grade out of 5 for how useful their comments were in helping you to improve your essay.

1=useless comments, they didn't even give your essay a real read

3=minimal help

3.5= ok advice

4=good comments

4.5=amazingly helpful comments

5=you learned how to be a better writer and took your essay to the next level due to the editor's feedback. (Don't give this too easily)

I reserve the right to alter grades. Don't give 4.5s too easily, or I will downgrade them.

I will read all editors comments and add up your two grades for a total of 10% for this assignment.

Editing comments due: **DATE**

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PART 5:

Final Draft [20%]

Rework your essay, using the peer-editing comments, as well as the editing skills you have learned during the process.

You will be graded for:

- how well developed your argument is
- how unique your angle onto your thesis is
- how well you've used your research
- quality of writing
- how much your draft has improved from your Rough Draft

Due: **DATE**