

## W131 OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS

### **Paper 1: Literacy Narrative**

Assignment: Write a narrative essay in which you recount your first/early reading and/or writing experience, OR a single experience that led you to understand the importance of reading or writing; OR a single experience from which you derived an attitude and/or insight (whether positive or negative) about reading or writing.

Audience: Your W131 classmates and instructor.

Research: Your experiences, memories, attitudes, and insights..

Minimum Length: Three full pages of text, typed double spaced. Minimum length requirement *always* applies to all drafts.

### **Paper 2: Rhetorical Analysis of a Visual Electronic Text (Rhetorical Analysis #1)**

Assignment: Write a rhetorical analysis of a television or Internet commercial advertisement (topic proposal and instructor approval required).

Audience: A specific general audience of your choice

Research: The required television or Internet advertisement; while not required, you may wish to do some additional research (e.g., information on the sponsor). Any additional sources must be informally documented.

Minimum Length Requirement: Three full pages of text, typed double spaced

### **Paper 3: Advanced Rhetorical Analysis (Rhetorical Analysis #2)**

Assignment: Write an in depth rhetorical analysis of the print nonfiction writing supplied to you.

Audience: A specific academic audience of your choosing

Research: The subject text itself; while not required, some further research may enhance your essay or be needed to understand historical context. Any additional sources used must be informally documented

Minimum Length: Four full pages of text typed double spaced

### **Paper 4- Researched Argumentative Paper**

Assignment: Conduct balanced research on a controversial issue of interest to you and the public, arrive at an arguable thesis as a result of your research, and compose a formal argumentative paper in which you support your thesis and answer opposing views/reader concerns.

**NOTE:** *Your topic must be approved by instructor. Papers are not allowed on abortion, capital punishment, gun control, or evolution.*

**Audience:** A specific academic, professional, or pre-professional audience of your choice

**Research:** At least six sources acceptable for college level work, only two of which may be electronic/Internet articles. Books, anthology articles, and magazine/newspaper articles (properly screened) are acceptable for this assignment.

A topic outline and works cited are required for all drafts-a title page for final draft

**Minimum Length:** 8 full pages of text, not including title page, outline, and works cited, typed double spaced.

**Documentation:** MLA documentation is required.

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### **General Information about the Major Writing Assignments:**

As the syllabus indicates, students must complete all four major writing projects to be considered for a passing grade, regardless of the grade points earned during the semester. All major projects require three drafts; for a project to be considered complete, all required drafts must be submitted and they must be complete. Incomplete work is returned without review or credit. Project 4 has multiple components and is formally documented. All components (topic outline, text, works cited-and a title page for final draft) must be present, source requirement met, MLA documentation complete, and required highlighted, annotated source copies submitted for a project 4 draft to be considered complete.

All out-of-class assignments must be typed, double spaced using 12 point font. Please observe one inch margin requirements. On all drafts, your name, course and section number, project name and draft, and date should appear on the first page of text in upper left corner.

Mary Smith  
W131-05  
Literacy Narrative First Draft  
January 28, 2015

Your last name and page number should appear on the upper right corner of subsequent pages.

All drafts should be carefully proofread. Please assemble and maintain your major project folders in the manner indicated in the syllabus. Use a separate folder for each major project. Only the last draft of paper 4 requires a title page.

**Do not submit assignments via email.** You must submit them **in person** the day they are due.

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**Evaluative Criteria for Major Projects:**

Please see the general criterion for evaluating writing shown in your syllabus. You will be given a specific evaluative criteria sheet for each paper as well. Although the final grade (called the project grade) is based primarily on the final draft of a major paper, some penalties may apply. An unsatisfactory (check minus) result on a first or second draft will result in a one-step reduction to the letter grade earned for the final draft (for example, an A for the final draft, but an A- for the project grade). Failure to submit a first or second draft timely for credit will result in a full letter reduction to the grade earned for final draft.

A late final draft results in a penalty to the project grade of one full letter for every class it is late. **Remember that an extension extends the due date by one class session unless I stipulate otherwise in writing.**

Conference days shown in syllabus are considered class sessions for this purpose. The project grade for a major project, properly weighted, is used in computing your course GPA.

Regarding project 4, the quality of documentation counts on all drafts. Responsible documentation is the writer's responsibility.

I will write a response to second and final drafts of projects 1, 2, and 3 and a response to all drafts of project 4. I review and respond to drafts sequentially. I will not review and respond to a second draft if there is no first draft in project folder. Should you fall behind, do not submit a first and second draft at the same time. I expect you to consider my second draft response in composing your final draft.

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**Minimum Length Requirements:** To be eligible for consideration for a satisfactory grade based on other assignment criteria, all drafts must meet the minimum length requirement for the project. Minimum length requirements shown in the Overview refer to the length of the text itself-not including title page, note page, works cited, or any exhibits.

Try not to exceed minimum length of the assignment by more than a page or so to stay within the parameters of the writing situation described by the assignment.

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**Expectations for First Drafts:** A first draft or "rough" is a writer's early good faith effort to meet the requirements of the writing assignment –not to be confused with zero drafts. Rough drafts must be typed, complete, fully documented, and carefully proofread.

As the Tentative Course Schedule indicates, conferences are held to discuss your first draft for paper 4. When you submit second drafts of the other three major papers, I will check the first drafts you submitted for peer critiquing for completeness and length.

A "check" on an early draft does not mean that further proofreading alone will yield a satisfactory final draft. A check indicates that a rough is satisfactory as a first draft. Real revision is expected, and that means substantial changes to the text.

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**Participation/Miscellaneous Class Work Course Component:** This component, worth 15% of the course grade, is graded on the quality of your participation in class and group discussions (50%) and miscellaneous classwork (50%). Written work for a single in-class peer reviewing session constitutes one miscellaneous class work unit.

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