

GYC 101

Churney

COM 101

The following assignment is devised as a COM 101 essay, which is one of three major essays required for the course. Primarily, the course involves reading, analyzing, and writing about the rhetoric of other texts, as well as incorporating those choices into the students' own original work.

This assignment more or less asks students to do all three things: part of my focus in 101 is moving the students' understanding of a text away from the notion that it must be a written work, so therefore they will be "reading" the texts of the movies, analyzing their arguments, and responding with an argument of their own. This will prepare students for their final essay, which is to write their own original critique about something from popular culture.

My assignment focuses on sustainability in multiple ways. First, it makes students engage in texts that are focused on sustainable issues. More importantly, though, it asks students to apply those issues to their lives, thus heightening the level of awareness and understanding that they must have of the text while also forcing them to realize how they are implicated in the issue. I plan to use it this summer when I teach COM 101.

### Response to Text Essay

In this paper, you will be engaging with other texts that we have watched during the portion of the semester based on sustainability: *The Story of Stuff* and *No Impact Man*. How do the films explore and explain our culture of consumption?

A successful essay will both restate and explain the original author's thesis and main claims. Next, you will support those claims about consumption with specific observation of how you (or your household) contribute to our American culture of using stuff. You should take roughly one week to observe this. Be as descriptive as possible. Ultimately, you will prove your understanding of the primary texts by using evidence from your own life.

Since you are using personal observation, you may use first-person point of view. Remember, though, to use formal and distanced language. If you write about members of your family, be sure to write about them with an emotional distance (i.e. don't use Dad or Mom to describe them—father/mother are appropriate).

This is how I will grade you:

40 pts

Essay has strong organization/readability stemming from a clear thesis

20 pts	Author explains main ideas from the primary text
20 pts	Essay quotes from, engages with, and analyzes primary text
20 pts	Author supports text's claims with evidence from personal observation
20 pts	Accurate MLA works cited page
20 pts	Meets minimum page length (1000-1250 words)
40 pts	Paper is free of grammatical, spelling, and formatting errors
20 pts	Completed draft for Peer Workshop
<b>200 pts</b>	<b>Total</b>

The learning outcomes for the course in this assignment include:

1. Quoting and citing from a primary text
2. Supporting a claim with evidence
3. Implementing rhetoric

The learning outcomes for this assignment include:

1. Understanding a text
2. Responding to a text
3. Using personal evidence to respond to the text
4. Constructing a convincing argument