

GYC 202 Information About the Following Assignment:

As per the header, I can use this assignment in Com 102, a research writing class. I'm in the middle of revamping said course—you'll notice that the first part of the "What" section loosely refers to readings from *75 Arguments*, but I'm not certain if I'll stay with said text next spring when teaching 102. Whichever text I go with will have a sustainability section (*75 Arguments* has one: "Nature and its Resources: To Sustain or to Exploit?") comprised of articles drawn from all kinds of different sources: newspapers, journals, magazines, etc. I'm considering a change to refresh the readings for myself—getting tired of what's there!

I'll use the assignment to fulfill the required "research paper" component of Com 102 most likely during the Spring semester of 2013.

How does it relate to sustainability? I want to be a smarty and say "how doesn't it relate to sustainability" (I think I just did). It will force students to take a step back from themselves for a moment and objectively examine their positions in their lives—it asks them to look at who they are, how they got that way, and why it matters. This opens them up to all kinds of examinations of self: social justice, usage of resources, class ranking, etc.

Your Life: An Examination of the Subtext

What:

- 1.) In light of the essays from *75 Arguments* we've been reading and discussing over the past weeks, it's now time to examine your own life through the overarching lens of the decisions that others (parents, government, friends, family, etc.) have made—or failed to make—for you. That is, what were you born into, and how has your station in this world influenced / been influenced by the choices of people who have gone before you?

Questions you might consider: How have their decisions influenced the way you live daily? How might your life be different had said people made different decisions? Do you desire change in their decisions for better or worse? Do you wish those folks had chosen differently? Are you happy with the systems set in place, or will you try to change them? How? Why?

Examples: your religion, where you live, your education, the number of siblings you have, the availability of resources (we can spend some time in class defining that word, “resources.”), your social class, etc.

- 2.) Direct your writing specifically to the individual / group of individuals responsible for said decision-making.

Why:

-This assignment will ultimately illustrate all that you’ve been learning about our course objectives and competencies—have a look in our syllabus under the “Critical Reading and Thinking” section, and then look at the “Source Based Writing” section. Part of this assignment will take the form of a written proposal, and I’ll ask you to tell me therein how your writing is aligning with our course goals.

-Along the way, we will discuss the larger question, “why bother using sources in my writing?” In short, the academic world calls it “information literacy,” that is, can you find, evaluate, incorporate, and properly document research?

-You should become a bit of an expert on whatever it is that you choose to research—that is, you should come to an understanding of the content outside of your current understanding and comfort zone. Pay attention to yourself as you write and research; you may, if you do this right, learn quite a bit about yourself (communications skills, reception to new ideas, comfort w/ meeting new people, etc.).

How:

-You may organize this essay any way you see fit—the final decision on what you do and how you do it is up to you. If you have an idea you are unsure about, please be sure to contact me before you begin any major effort therein.

-Your topic will be inherently important to your life; choose to think, research, and write about something that truly affects you.

Requirements:

- 6 pages for the final draft.
- 1 page minimum skeleton draft (writing what you already know before getting into any kind of research)—this will be done in the writing lab.
- Incorporate information from interviews with at least two people involved in the situation you're writing about; in that your topics will vary widely, please clear said individuals with me ahead of time. You will conduct the interviews yourself, and one of them must be *in person*—begin early; if you can't find interviewees, you will be required to change topics. Read pages 122-128 of our textbook for more information regarding interviews.
- You must provide copies of your notes / interviews with the paper.
- You must furnish proof of the in person interview (photograph, signature, phone number, etc.).
- Use sources as needed; that is, rather than quantifying the amount of sources from my end, you instead need to focus on where—and why—you ought to be substantiating your claims with outside information.
- Use proper MLA research and documentation skills, including a proper Work Cited page.
- Complete a self-evaluation form.

When:

-We will have a library orientation early next week to introduce you to some of the available research options, techniques, etc.

-We have a computer lab next week, room T.B.A., for invention, pre-writing, and preliminary research. We will discuss the interviewing process, including how to write good questions.

-Further, we will break down into workshop for a week and a half following our lab dates.

-Refer to the Course Calendar for specifics.

You will not have a chance to revise this 200 point essay—20 % of the course total—once it has been turned in for a grade, so be sure to make the most of your time. If that includes using me as a resource, you should know how to find me by now.

Cheers.