**Essay One: Exploratory Paper Assignment**

This exploratory essay will help you prepare for your second essay assignment for this class,

which will be an argumentative research paper. For your exploratory essay, you’ll spend time

researching, thinking and writing about the issue, problem or question that will drive your research paper.

One of the important goals of inquiry is to understand the range of positions on a particular issue. A helpful metaphor for the ongoing expression of positions on an issue is that of a conversation. We could say that making an argument of your own is adding your voice to the conversation and that you need to know what is being said by others before you can join in. Investigating and preparing to join the conversation on an issue are the goals of the exploratory paper.

**Topic:** Select one of the topics provided in the lesson. If you wish to choose another topic, you must have it approved by your instructor before you begin the assignment. **Papers on unapproved topics will receive a zero.**

**Purpose:** To understand various stances or points of view on an issue and explore your own position on that issue (stopping short of actually making your own argument on the issue). Essentially, you will need to research and write about a particular topic, while looking at various stances or points of view that people may take on the topic. Rather than trying to convince the reader of a particular stance, you are merely trying to educate them on all the possible approaches that can be taken with a topic so that they can make their own mind up.

**Audience:** members of the academic community at Richland, include class members and professors

**Process strategies:** Find various books and articles on your topic that present both sides of the argument. You might want to keep in mind that when you write the argumentative paper (Essay 2) in the next lesson, you will need a variety of sources. **For that assignment, you must cite at least five reliable and authoritative sources, only two of which may be dedicated websites (you may use Web-based electronic journals and databases).**

**Length:** 5 pages plus a separate works cited page in MLA format

**Format:** The final copy must be a Word document in Modern Language Association format. The guidelines are posted in the announcements section of our eCampus class. Outside sources must be properly documented according to MLA guidelines for in-text citations and works cited.

**Structure:** You will need an introduction, which will explain briefly what it is that you will be writing about, and why. The next section will be the body section, which will outline various points and arguments (the pros and cons) that can be made about the topic that you’re writing about. Finally, you will include a conclusion, which essentially brings together all of the information in the previous two sections and clarifies your position on the issue.

### Article 6: MLA8 Citation Basics

MLA stands for Modern Language Association, which is the standard way to document sources in literature and the humanities.  Any time you quote, paraphrase or summarize from a source, you need to let your reader know what that source is.  "MLA" is one standardized format for doing this. Here's how it works.

**The Works Cited Page**

At the end of an academic essay, there needs to be a page titled "Works Cited."  This page includes a citation for each source you have used in the essay.  While the individual entries can be complex, the basic structure is pretty easy.  A typical entry has the following elements:

When deciding how to cite your source, start by consulting the list of core elements. These are the general pieces of information that MLA suggests including in each Works Cited entry. In your citation, the elements should be listed in the following order:

1. Author.
2. Title of source.
3. Title of container,
4. Other contributors,
5. Version,
6. Number,
7. Publisher,
8. Publication date,
9. Location.

Each element should be followed by the punctuation mark shown here. 

Here are a few examples:

Book:

Gleick, James. Chaos: Making a New Science. Penguin, 1987.

Article from a Web page:

Lundman, Susan. "How to Make Vegetarian Chili." eHow, www.ehow.com/how\_10727\_make-vegetarian-chili.html.

     Accessed 14 November 2016.

**In-Text Citations**

General Guidelines

* The source information required in a parenthetical citation depends (1.) upon the source medium (e.g. Print, Web, DVD) and (2.) upon the source’s entry on the Works Cited (bibliography) page.
* Any source information that you provide in-text must correspond to the source information on the Works Cited page. More specifically, whatever signal word or phrase you provide to your readers in the text, must be the first thing that appears on the left-hand margin of the corresponding entry in the Works Cited List.

**Examples:**

#### In-text citations for print sources with known author

For Print sources like books, magazines, scholarly journal articles, and newspapers, provide a signal word or phrase (usually the author’s last name) and a page number. If you provide the signal word/phrase in the sentence, you do not need to include it in the parenthetical citation.

Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

#### In-text citations for print sources with no known author

When a source has no known author, use a shortened title of the work instead of an author name. Place the title in quotation marks if it's a short work (such as an article) or italicize it if it's a longer work (e.g. plays, books, television shows, entire Web sites) and provide a page number.

We see so many global warming hotspots in North America likely because this region has "more readily accessible climatic data and more comprehensive programs to monitor and study environmental change . . ." ("Impact of Global Warming" 6).

In this example, since the reader does not know the author of the article, an abbreviated title of the article appears in the parenthetical citation which corresponds to the full name of the article which appears first at the left-hand margin of its respective entry in the Works Cited. Thus, the writer includes the title in quotation marks as the signal phrase in the parenthetical citation in order to lead the reader directly to the source on the Works Cited page. The Works Cited entry appears as follows:

"The Impact of Global Warming in North America." Global Warming: Early Signs. 1999. Web. 23 Mar. 2009.

**For more information, visit the Purdue OWL at this link: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/**

**Grading Criteria for the Exploratory Paper:**

An 'A' paper will focus on a debatable issue and position you, the writer, in this conversation. The paper will explore both sides of the issue, identifying and explaining key supporting points for each position. The paper will be developed with examples from the sources, using quotes, paraphrasing, and summarizing as appropriate. Examples and evidence from outside the essays may be used as well (other readings, personal experience, etc.). The paper will be organized for clarity and readability and written in a formal tone. There will be few if any noticeable mechanical and/or grammatical errors.

A 'B' paper will have the qualities of the 'A' paper but may have slightly weaker support, some uneven coherence (awkward paraphrasing, unclear references, rough transitions), or some repeated, minor problems with grammar and/or mechanics.

A 'C' paper will generally meet the basic requirements of the assignment but will be deficient in one of the following: accuracy of reporting/documenting the sources, development/support, organization/coherence, or style. It may also contain numerous errors in grammar and/or mechanics.

A ‘D’ or ‘F’paper will not sufficiently meet the requirements of the assignment. The paper may be weak in multiple areas, including organization, development, coherence, unity, focus, grammar/mechanics, formatting, and documentation style.

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