
EXPLORATORY ESSAY

Due by 11:59 p.m. on 2 February 2020
Worth 20% of total class grade
Approx. 750-1000 words

ASSIGNMENT:

Choose one of the texts you found during our class reading sessions and write an essay that analyzes what the text is saying and how it presents its information. Then, the essay should explore your interest in the text's topic and the research possibilities of that topic.

Your exploratory essay should do the following:

- Clearly establish which text is being considered and identify the text's topic.
- Analyze the content and design of the text.
- Explain your personal interest in the topic with specific examples/details.
- Explore different research options and questions that the text inspires.
- Conclude by letting readers know you are going to continue to pursue this project.

Possible Points to Cover:

- Why this topic is important to you
- Why you believe this topic would be of interest to others
- Examples/descriptions of this topic in action
- Examples of how this topic has affected you or how you have experienced this topic
- How you first developed an interest in this topic
- Aspects of this topic you would like to research
- Questions you have about this topic

**Remember that specific details or anecdotes bring your ideas to life.

ASSIGNMENT GOALS (WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?)

1. To introduce and/or strengthen your knowledge of the principles of rhetoric
2. To provide a foundational knowledge about a topic to guide you through the rest of the assignment sequence
3. To utilize professional/semi-formal tone appropriate for audience and genre

AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE:

This exploratory essay will help your ePortfolio audience understand how and why you started your research journey. It will be an introduction of sorts when it is published on your ePortfolio website. This means you should aim for a tone that is professional/semi-formal.

FORMAT:

Follow MLA format -- paper should be typed, double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman font or other similar font, standard 1" or 1.25" margins. You should include a works cited page that cites your text and any other sources you feel you need to consult while writing this paper. The initial text is the only required source for this assignment.

SUBMISSIONS

1. Title your paper EN 102 Exploratory Essay YOURLASTNAME.
2. All papers should be submitted in Blackboard through the "Essay #1 - Exploratory Essay" link found in the Unit One folder. Example: Course Homepage → Unit One → Essay #1 - Exploratory Essay.
3. Students should use Firefox or Chrome to submit their essay as a DOCX or PDF only. Blackboard sometimes has significant issues reading other file types. Apple's Safari browser often will not complete a submission.
4. Emailed assignments or assignment shared from Google Drive will not be accepted.