

# *Final Essay*

## Instructions

### Due Date

This essay must be posted on D2L in **.doc or .docx format** by the date and time listed in the Class Schedule and the D2L daily module (please complete the D2L student tutorial if you have any doubts about how to do this), no exceptions. You may turn it in earlier, but keep in mind I receive only your most recent submission.

### Requirements and Expectations

Throughout this semester, you will have already submitted the bulk of your portfolio, including your paper outline, enthymeme, works cited page, rough draft, and perhaps even your Smarthinking extra credit. At this point, you should be well-prepared for the final draft of your essay. This final draft of your paper must do the following:

1. Take a clear stand on one of the issues provided in the paper topics handout. Represent your stance in terms of a clearly articulated, argumentative enthymeme. A fully-fledged, argumentative enthymeme contains the following items: a) it indicates an **issue(s)** it is responding to; b) it specifically states how it answers/responds to the issue(s); c) it draws a **conclusion**; and d) it provides the **strongest reason or set of reasons** for believing that the response/stand is a strongly plausible one. (You should review the course content on the parts and structure of a valid/sound enthymeme!)
2. Develop and structure a strong argument that is well-organized and coherent, focusing on the following goals: a) explain your key ideas thoroughly, so that you are **teaching** your reader about them; and b) provide supported first-person perspective when appropriate (meaning you also accompany your ideas and beliefs with solid **reasons**).
3. Include a well-developed counter-argument to your position and your rebuttal to that counter-argument.
4. Show evidence of proofreading and careful editing.
5. Effectively utilize credible sources and evidence to illustrate and support your specific claims.
6. Include in-text citations and a Works Cited page in MLA format.
7. Be within 3-4 FULL pages (excluding the Works Cited page) and in MLA format throughout.

**NOTE: ANY EVIDENCE OF PLAGIARISM OF ANY SORT ON THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE AT MINIMUM.**

Recommendations for writing:

- Start early—this is not the kind of paper that can be done at the last minute.
- Construct an outline before you begin writing that includes the parts of the paper necessary to accomplish the requirements listed above.
- Utilize Smarthinking – a tool on D2L that can provide real feedback from people reading your work.

*Your grade will reflect how well you follow the instructions below:*

Requirement	20 points DID IT	15 points TRIED IT	5 points DIDN'T DO IT
<b>Enthymeme</b>	You have chosen a topic from the provided topic list, and you've explained your thesis in the form of an enthymeme	You explained your thesis, but not in the form of an enthymeme	You did not include your thesis or enthymeme, and/or your topic was not from the provided list
<b>Counterargument</b>	You fully explained at least one counterargument to either your reason or unstated assumption	You mentioned one counterargument, but you did not explain it	You did not mention any counterarguments
<b>Clarity</b>	Your writing is clear, direct, and effective	Some of your writing is awkwardly written; there are grammar issues, run-on sentences, and/or mistakes	Most of your writing is unclear, difficult to understand, and poorly worded
<b>Citations</b>	You have proper in-text MLA citations, as well as a works cited page	You have either in-text citations or a works cited page	You are missing many or all citations
<b>Format and Page Limit</b>	Your paper is in proper MLA format and is between 3-4 pages, excluding the Works Cited page	Your paper uses consistent formatting, but not MLA, and/or is within one page longer or shorter than the page limit	You did not use any consistent formatting, and/or your paper is more than one page outside of the limit