

Major Essay Assignment 3

Essay 3 offers you the opportunity to expand on and reinterpret your previous essay. In each of your essays thus far you've been asked to blend genres, integrating personal experience with traditional scholarly sources such as academic journal articles and books. In this essay you'll incorporate an additional genre: fieldwork (interviews, surveys, questionnaires, etc.). The type of fieldwork you do and the sources you choose should serve to substantiate and amplify your points. Nevertheless, while your sources will help you establish your argument, it's your voice that should be privileged.

Essay 3 should be a significant revision of your last essay. In other words, your new essay should amount to more than merely adding five new pages to the essay. Instead, you should make significant changes so that the new essay is a fuller, more-realized examination of the particular theme or aspect of the word cult that you're writing about. You may find that to reach ten pages you need to broaden your topic, or you may find that you have to rework your framework entirely and give longer examples and explanations than you did in your second essay. In fact, your entire focus may shift to a detail that you only paid minimal attention to in your second essay. The successful revision will most likely entail a revision and restructuring of the original essay to make space for new sources and, most importantly, new ideas. Your essay needs to meet the source requirements outlined below, which require that you blend fieldwork and library research into your final product. Above all, remember that your goal should not be a research "paper," but a research "essay"; in writing the research-based essay, remember to include your views and your experiences.

Length: 10-12 pages.

Due dates:

Tue., Apr. 7: Peer draft. (bring 2 copies to class.)

Tue., Apr. 14: Final draft.

Sources:

Seven. Of these seven sources, two must come from the library.

In order to demonstrate your ability to incorporate sources into your essay, be sure that you include (a) referenced paraphrased and summarized information, (b) brief in-text quotations, and (c) at least one long block quotation. You will use some of these techniques more than others, and you want to be especially careful to avoid relying too much on long block quotations.

Changing Your Topic

If you want to change your topic for essay 3, you may do so only after I've given my approval. To request a topic change submit a 1-2 paragraph proposal abstract detailing your new topic and the types of field research you wish to incorporate. Permission to change your topic is not

automatic, and any topic change must be accepted by me before you turn in your first draft. No topic change will be accepted after the first draft has been turned in.

Submitting Your Work

Both unit essays must be submitted in a plain, 2-pocket folder with your name and course and section number clearly written on the outside. Plastic folders or folders containing school logos will not be accepted. The following items must be included inside your folder:

- Final draft of essay, stapled, in a pocket by itself.
- Final copy of Essay 2 that I graded.
- Completed peer evaluation forms.
- Essay grade sheet.

Penalties: Failure to turn in a peer draft on the due date will result in a one letter grade penalty on your final paper. Failure to turn in peer evaluations on the due date will result in a one letter grade penalty on your final paper. If late, your final draft will be docked one letter grade for each calendar day it's late. Folders missing any other of the above-mentioned items will be considered incomplete and will be docked one letter grade per calendar day late until all the items have been received.

Grading Criteria

When assigning grades, I reserve "A" for exceptional papers -- you do not get an A on a paper simply by addressing the paper topic in a standard way and avoiding mechanical errors.

Your essay will be graded according to the following three criteria:

Invention

- *Introduction and Thesis:* Are these components of your essay clearly written, easily identifiable, and effective in presenting the topic, discussing its significance, and providing direction to the paper as a whole?
- *Accuracy, Wording, and Research:* Have you used the required sources to support your argument, and do you express their concepts fairly and accurately? Have you integrated quotes smoothly? If you are paraphrasing, do you use your own words yet still remain faithful to the author's original meaning? Have you expressed your ideas clearly and concisely? Is the essay in your own words? NOTE: Failure to meet research requirements may result in an 'E' for the essay.
- *Criteria:* Have you clearly and defined necessary terms? Have you illustrated your criteria with specific examples and, if necessary, contrasting examples? Have you established ethical, logical, and/or emotional reasons (evidence) in support of your thesis?
- *Revision:* Are there substantial changes between the final version and the draft of the essay? Does your final version meet the length requirements? NOTE: Failure to meet the length requirements may result in a failing grade.

Organization

- *Beginning:* Have you offered an introduction in which you explain the issue and show why it is relevant? Have you presented a clear thesis that guides and unifies the essay?
- *Middle:* Are your paragraphs focused and well developed? Do your paragraphs contain topic sentences? Have you revised for clarity and worked on eliminating wordy, unclear, and/or repetitive areas in your essay? Have you included transitional words between sentences and paragraphs to make your ideas flow more smoothly?
- *End:* Do you offer a conclusion that does more than merely repeat your major ideas?

Style

- *Format:* Does your paper adhere to MLA format, including font and point size? Have you correctly cited from your sources and inserted a parenthetical citation after each quote? Have you introduced quotes in an effective way? Have you included a "Works Cited" page?
- *Tone:* Is your tone appropriate for the chosen audience?
- *Grammar/Sentences:* Is your paper free from grammatical errors such as sentence fragments, fused sentences, comma splices, mixed constructions, apostrophe errors, subject/verb and pronoun/antecedent disagreement? Is the essay free from spelling errors?