

EGL 102—Assignment 2

Minimum length: three full pages—approximately 900 words, size 12 print, double spaced—read this assignment multiple times as you write this essay.

This assignment is designed to serve several purposes. First, it will give you the opportunity to become more familiar with services provided by the library. Second, it requires you to respond to someone else's ideas, which necessitates your understanding those ideas. Third, it will reinforce our earlier discussions concerning argumentation, a skill with which you must become familiar in a successful college career. We will discuss argumentation in class in sufficient detail to serve our needs. Finally, it will serve as a tune up for the research project—Assignment 3, including the proper presentation of MLA style. By the way, this is a good time to consider your list of possible topics for the research project. **Make a list in your notebook of those topics you consider.** A list of five topics will be attached to your final draft of Assignment 2, or five points will be deducted. No, you may not turn it in later.

Write an essay inspired by the **serious tone** found in this article, found on my Web site:

- "Why We Didn't Remove Saddam"

Read this essays actively. Note that, like short story titles, article titles are presented in quotation marks. We are reading this article to stimulate our critical thinking concerning this issue and to have an example of the serious tone you should use when writing your essays. The article listed above will not be referenced in your essays, and you will not write about this topic. Carefully review the list of topics on the last page of your policy statement before choosing a topic.

Your response will be controlled by an argument focused on a topic of your choosing, which will incorporate appropriate points of view from at least three outside sources **from library reference materials or databases such as *Credo Reference* and *Academic Search Complete*. At least one of these three sources will be a scholarly source**; do not use the article listed above. **The following sources will not be used on Assignment 2 without my permission:**

- Newspapers
- Books
- Popular magazines
- *Issues and Controversies* articles
- *Opposing Viewpoints* articles
- General Web sites
- Standard use dictionaries and encyclopedias

However, these sources may be used early in your search for basic information. Further instruction will be given in class concerning the use of sources. If you aren't familiar with

LLCC's library, ask a librarian to show you how to use the databases and the Reference Section.

Your essay's topic must be one that deals with a significant issue or problem. For instance, you could write about:

- an educational topic of interest to you
- issues that affect various groups in the human community
- medical or social topics
- psychological topics such as the pressures on people to "fit in" rather than be individuals.

Do not use the topics noted in my policy statement, unless you can sell me on a unique twist to one of those topics before you begin writing. **A works cited will accompany each essay, and any essay that is submitted without a works cited will receive an automatic F.** See page 470 of *A Writer's Reference* for a model works cited and pages 422-461 for details for creating an MLA Style works cited. In-text citation is explained on pages 412-422. Finally, print and read "Is It a Scholarly Journal?" and "Sex Misplaced", both found on my Web site. Click on the link titled *Essays for Assignments 1, 2, 3, and 4* to find "Sex Misplaced", which is a model essay for this assignment and for Assignment 3.

Your purpose in writing will be to create an argument that will persuade your reader that your position is valid and that you are searching for the truth. You need not prove other points of view invalid. In fact, it is usually helpful to academic arguments to show that complex problems require complex solutions, which validate several points of view.

Due dates for this assignment:

Two copies of the peer editing draft are due at the beginning of class on **2/27/2017**.

The final draft is due at the beginning of class on **3/6/2017**.

Print Assignment 3 and bring it to class on **3/3/2017**. Read the assignment carefully before coming to class.

Review the essay submission procedure handout.