Writing Assignment Sequence 2
Academic Research Paper - Final Draft

GOAL: Compose a complex, rhetorically effective final draft of an academic research paper centered around a problem faced by a community you belong to. Write with focus to an academic audience. Develop your focus with patterns of evidence and explicit reasoning. Use appropriate rhetorical strategies for academic writing. Use standard formatting and design conventions of academic writing. Edit your diction, syntax, and punctuation to align with standard usage in academic writing.

TASK: Start with your rough draft and the feedback you received from your peer review workshop group and your professor. Your task is to review, re-think, and revise your rough draft into an effective final draft.

As you revise, consider doing some or all of the following:

- Adjust the overall organization of your paper, to tighten the focus.
- Include an extended anecdote to illustrate the problem that the community faces.
- Spend a paragraph or two defining the community. Write about the membership of the community, its common goals, and its concerns.
- Conduct web and library research to provide background and context for the problem.
- Establish credibility and trustworthiness (*ethos*) by showing that you share academic readers' values: explicitness, thoroughness, reliance on evidence instead of hearsay, relative objectivity.
- Conduct research to locate evidence that backs your minor claims.
- Research how other communities have addressed similar problems. What lessons can your community take away from other communities?
- Establish a sense of *kairos* by showing why the problem matters now.
- Draw in what you have learned in other classes that bears on your subject matter.
- Use explicit appeals to logic and reason to show your readers how your solutions will solve the problem.
- Identify counterarguments or alternate perspectives on the problem. Address those counterarguments explicitly.

After you've looked at the "higher-order" concerns of focus, argument, reasoning, structure, and development, edit your prose. Look at previous comments you've received from classmates and your professor, and make sure you are editing your prose for:

- pronoun-antecedent agreement

- subject-verb agreement
- consistent verb tense
- comma splices and run-on sentences
- sentence fragments
- clarity in the subject of each sentence

Finally: Because you are writing to an academic audience, be sure to make an effort to follow either MLA or APA guidelines for formatting and documenting outside sources. Strive to use standard syntax and diction and a clear organizational pattern. Make sure your reasoning is explicit and clear.

DUE DATE: Complete your final draft by class time on Wednesday, April 6.

LENGTH & FORMATTING: Your final draft should provide a complete, complex argument on your problem. 1000 words is probably a minimum, although you will probably need 1500-2000 words to provide a full argument. Turn in a single document, double-spaced, one-inch margins, serif font, page numbers, etc. Give your paper a unique or memorable title.

DELIVERY: Turn in your final draft via Canvas upload. Attach a .doc, .docx, or .pdf file to this assignment. These file formats are available in virtually every word processor, including Google Docs and Open Office.

SOURCES & DOCUMENTATION: If you use sources, document them using guidelines from the MLA or APA. Be sure that all sources are credible, trustworthy sources that pass the "CRAAP test."

GRADING: See the rubric below for how your work will be graded.

Task & Focus	The writer provides a detailed overview of the problem that the paper addresses. 10.0 pts		The writer provides some description of the problem that the paper addresses. 7.0 pts		The writer does not provide enough detail on the problem for readers to fully understand its relevance. 0.0 pts	10.0 pts
Purpose & Argument	The paper is focused around a central position, major claim, or clear policy recommendations. The writer uses extended examples and patterns of	The paper is focused around a central position, major claim, or clear policy recommendations. The writer uses extended examples and patterns of	The paper is focused around a central position, major claim, or clear policy recommendations. The writer establishes credibility and	The central position, major claim, or recommendations of the paper are vague or unclear. 23.0 pts	The paper is not focused around a central position, major claim, or clear recommendation. 0.0 pts	35.0 pts

	evidence to argue for claims. The writer uses explicit reasoning to connect supporting evidence to claims. The writer establishes credibility and trustworthiness. 35.0 pts	evidence to argue for claims. The writer establishes credibility and trustworthiness. 31.0 pts	trustworthiness. 27.0 pts			
Mechanics & Conventions	Diction, punctuation, and syntax are essentially standard. The report has an introduction, summary, or overview that outlines the subject matter. MLA or APA citations are essentially flawless. 20.0 pts	Diction, punctuation, and syntax are essentially standard. The report has an introduction, summary, or overview that outlines the subject matter. MLA or APA citations have a few flaws or errors, but an intelligent reader could probably locate the source relatively easily, given the information provided. 17.0 pts	The report has an introduction, summary, or overview that outlines the subject matter. MLA or APA citations have a few flaws or errors, but an intelligent reader could probably locate the source relatively easily, given the information provided. 15.0 pts	MLA or APA citations are seriously flawed, or mechanical mistakes in prose make it difficult to understand the writer's ideas. 12.0 pts	MLA or APA citations are insufficient, or mechanical mistakes in prose impede understanding. 0.0 pts	20.0 pts
Use of Sources & Research	The paper uses credible outside sources, and identifies those sources with in-text citations. The writer uses sources via both quotation and paraphrase or summary. The writer treats sources critically (e.g., contextualizing a source, critiquing a source's methodology, comparing and contrasting sources, etc.) 25.0 pts	The paper uses credible outside sources, and identifies those sources with in-text citations. The writer uses sources via both quotation and paraphrase or summary. 22.0 pts	The paper quotes credible outside sources, and identifies those sources with in-text citations. 19.0 pts	The paper makes some use of outside sources, but those sources are not consistently identified with in-text citations, or are not consistently credible. 16.0 pts	The paper does not use outside sources, or those sources chosen are not credible. 0.0 pts	25.0 pts

Total Points: 90.0