Instructor: Jenna Alexander

English 3100: Junior-Level Writing

Fall 2016

**Unit 3: Argument Synthesis Essay**

This project has three parts and is worth 130 points, or 25% of your final grade.

**Part 1: Argument Synthesis Essay (100 points)**

Experienced academic writers have knowledge on their subjects and evidence to support their positions. For this essay, you will find and use outside texts to support, develop, and/or refute your own ideas. You will synthesize – or pull together – ideas from multiple sources into an original argument. This essay will allow you to position yourself as a fellow scholar within academic conversations.

1. Start by looking through the course readings. Select **one article from class** about a topic that interests you. Possible topics may include culture/community, literacy education, technology, power struggles, silence and voice, academic writing, literacy learning, culture, language variation and Standard English, etc. Then, find at least **four outside sources (including at least two scholarly sources)** that relate to your topic. This means that your paper will include a total of five sources.
2. Next, **read your texts *closely***, looking for similarities and differences between the sources. Here are some questions you to consider when you analyze:

What are the authors’ goals and purposes? What evidence do the authors use? Where and why do the authors agree? Where and why do the authors disagree?

1. Finally, using your analysis notes, provide a **5-7 page argument** about one of the topics discussed in class. This argument may support, refute, develop and/or challenge the ideas that you’ve encountered in the assigned readings. Regardless, you should contribute to the scholarly conversations you’ve encountered in the assigned articles in a meaningful way.

**Part 3: Presentations (30 points)**

The purpose of the presentation is to share what you have discovered about your topic with the class. Your objective is to explain your research findings in a way that captures our attention. If you so choose to do so, you may present the information in a visual way. That is, you can prepare a PowerPoint presentation, bring posters, or perform a rap. Be creative. This is very informal and should last about 5 minutes.

**The Process and Writing Calendar**

Tuesday, November 28: First draft due

Thursday, November 30: Second draft due (bring two copies)

Tuesday, December 5 – Thursday, December 7: Presentations

Tuesday, December 12: Portfolio 3 due (along with the final draft of the Argument Synthesis)

Rubric/Requirements (Subject to change as announced.)

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| **Structure/Organization:**   * Follow prompt, use approved topic * Clear, focused purpose * Well-written thesis, represents essay in entirety * Brief summary of the debate to help the reader(s) understand the issues * Introduction is attention-getting * Sets context, motive and criteria for analysis * Introduces the sources by providing relevant background information (author, title) * Clear organization that emphasizes content and strategies for development * Each paragraph clearly fits with purpose of essay * Paragraphs are structured clearly (MEAL Plan) * Utilizes effective transitions between main ideas and paragraphs (flows well) * Resolution/conclusion |
| **Development/Detail:**   * Analysis is clear and fully explained * Analysis demonstrates depth of thought, going beyond surface meaning for each example * Each main point (paragraph) analyzes specific detail from text and connects to thesis * Quotes are smoothly worked into paragraph, not dropped in * Quotes and support from text are fully explained in connection to thesis * Essay demonstrates a certain level of maturity, professionalism and appropriateness * Makes significant revisions from draft to draft, not just sentence-level changes |
| **Polish:**   * Grammar * Active verbs, present tense * Clarity * Sentence structure and variety * Punctuation—commas, colons, dashes and semi-colons * Mechanics * Follows proper MLA format   **Presentation Rubric:**   * Reflects Content of Paper – You present the main ideas of your paper and research. The information should be thorough, organized, and accurate. * Creativity – You present the information in an interesting, imaginative and engaging way. |