**ENGLISH 199**

**Instructor: Dr. W. DeFehr**

**Research Report**

**Assigned: Monday, March 12, 2018**

**Due: Monday, April 2, 2018**

**Length: 4 – 5 pages, double spaced, 12 points, Times New Roman**

INSTRUCTIONS

Please write a persuasive report that advances an argument based on one of the topics listed

below. Your report should include a maximum of 3 secondary sources, and should

include citations according to the IEEE standard. Each report should also include at least one graphic element, such as a chart, graph, or table to provide statistical evidence to support the claims that are made. As well, reports should be organized with a centered and bolded, 14-point title, and then three left justified and bolded 12-point headings that show the main sections of the report.

TOPICS

1.) Select one engineering topic that is of interest to you, and show how one version of the technology is an improvement over a previous iteration of that same technology.

2.) In your opinion, what alternative energy sources should the Alberta provincial government invest in to even out the boom and bust cycles that hit the oil patch?

3.) Which vehicle offers the best combination of performance and reduced environmental impact?

4.) Which building at the U of A represents “elegant” engineering design, from your perspective?

5.) Edmonton drivers complain about the city’s many potholes, but few realize the special challenges involved with constructing roads for an environment that’s as harsh as this, with its freeze/thaw fluctuations in the spring and fall, and spikes of hot and cold in the summer and winter. In your opinion, what road construction materials and techniques represent the best economic value, durability, and driving comfort for this region?

6.) What are the most common examples of “green” engineering that are currently being used in building construction around Edmonton?

7.) In the movie *Inception*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio, many engineering products are portrayed, including transportation devices, weapons systems, dream-altering technology, and so on. The one technology that has particularly advanced from our own times is that from which the movie takes its name, which allows trained experts to extract, or incept, ideas in a person’s mind while they sleep. Do you think that this movie portrays this technology as having positive effects on the world of the narrative, or do you think that overall this technology has negative, harmful effects?

8.) Select one movie that portrays technological innovations of any kind. These can include engineering improvements in communication, transportation, entertainment, military equipment, and domestic environments. Discuss the ways in which three examples of technology seem to benefit or harm the people in the movie.

9.) Video games are often blamed for many social problems, from laziness and lack of motivation to accomplish anything, to pent up aggression that gets released as acts of violence in the real world. Select one video game and show how the narrative of the game encourages actions that have some positive social value despite the potential violence that the characters are required to do to complete their missions.