**Academic Writing Assignment:**

**The Essay**: Write a well-written, persuasive academic essay on a topic of your choosing.

You must write an essay that is academic and persuasive (i.e. not a personal essay). You will try to persuade your reader to adopt your perspective on that topic. The purpose of this essay is to apply all the concepts of essay structure, thesis development, cohesive devices, appeals, logic and organization that you have studied. You will develop this essay through the writing process (brainstorming, organizing, drafting, and editing) over the next few weeks. A lot of time is dedicated to the brainstorming/organizing stages of the process. Every good essay is based on good research and planning. During the brainstorming phase, do research to develop your understanding of your topic and direct you towards a (working) thesis. Any borrowed ideas or writing *must* be cited or it will be regarded as plagiarism. (A serious academic offence that will be penalized.)

The essay must be a minimum of five paragraphs and between 750-1000 words (approx. 3-4 pages).

Reminders:

* Format: Essays must use Times New Roman 12-14 point font, have left-justified margins, be double spaced. (With this formatting pages usually contain about 250 words.)
* You have a large amount of time for this project and the expectations are greater because of that. Take your time and follow the process to fully develop and improve your essay.
* This assignment is worth 30% of your final grade.

Possible topics? Anything that you think is interesting and suitable.

Examples:

* *Mandatory military service for Korea’s young men is necessary for the country’s national defence.*
* *University education should be free to all students in Korea.*
* *Climate change is the number one problem the world is facing.*

**Schedule/ Directions:**

Week 9 (May 11-15) (this week):

i) Choose a topic and brainstorm it. Gather as much good information you have and develop a working thesis.

ii) Write a *brief* informal proposal. Clearly state your: a) topic b) working thesis c) supporting ideas d) why you chose this topic.

Week 10 (May 18-22):

Post your brief informal proposal in the Kakao chat room in week 10. Read and respond to at least one other student’s proposal: Ask questions and see if you can help clarify the language and logic of your classmate. \*\*\*Also, try to connect to someone so that you can use each other as editing partners later in the process: Kakao chat room link: <https://open.kakao.com/o/gEYS8j3b> \*\*\*

Week 11 (May 25-29)

Write a slightly more formal essay outline and send it to me: [mrcalder@gmail.com](mailto:mrcalder@gmail.com) by **Wednesday, May 27**.

Week 12 (June 1-5)

Write a ROUGH draft.

Week 13 (June 8-12)

Exchange your ROUGH draft with an editing partner and do your best to improve each other’s essay. \*\*\*Do you best to find an editing partner in the Kakao chat room. Also, after receiving your edited draft, edit it yourself and redraft, if necessary.

Week 14 (June 15-19)

Polish your ROUGH draft into a polished FINAL draft. Submit your final draft to my email by **Friday June 19**.

This is how your essay will be graded:

**Term Essay Grading Rubric**

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| 6-5  **Content** – Excellent ideas and evidence to support them.  **Structure** – Thesis and topic sentences included and effective. Sentences are linked. Paragraphs are well-structured.  **Style** – Essay reads smoothly. Has a level of sophistication. Appropriate appeals.  **Word Choice**– Word choice natural, creative and accurate.  **Form/Format**– Few to no mistakes in grammar, spelling and format. |

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| **4-3**  **Content** – Satisfactory/simple ideas with enough evidence to support them.  **Structure** – Thesis and topic sentences mostly included and effective. Some sentences linked. Paragraphs generally well-structured.  **Style** – A bit choppy or lacking eloquence, but still effective.  **Word Choice**– Word choice relatively accurate, some awkward or incorrect usage.  **Form/Format**– 5 to 10 mistakes in grammar, spelling and format per page. |

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| **2-1**  **Content** – Ideas too simple and/or not well expressed or relevant.  **Structure** – Thesis, topic sentences not included or ineffective. No sentences linked. Paragraphs have little or no structure.  **Style** – No transitions used or are completely ineffective.  **Word Choice**– Word choice a mystery.  **Form/Format**– More than 10 mistakes in grammar, spelling and format per page. |

**Your marks:**

**Content**

**Structure**

**Style**

**Word Choice**

**Form/Format**

**/30**

**\* Read the comments on your paper**