**WR 121**

**Essay 3: Problem/Solution**

Instructions: For Essay 3, you can choose to *EITHER* write a traditional essay or produce a multimodal project consisting of a 2-page written abstract and an up-front presentation. Regardless of the medium, your essay should present a current problem that you see in your community, a specific group you are associated with, or society in general. *Your essay should (1) establish that the problem exists and is worth discussing (2) offer a detailed analysis of the problem (3) demonstrate that the solution offered is well thought out and researched (4) discuss how the proposed solution can be implemented.* Try to choose a problem that is narrow in focus so that you do not “bite off more than you can chew.” Consider counterarguments that your audience might think of and address them in your essay. Remember - your goal is not to be “right,” but to present your problem/solution in a way that is logical, organized, and source-supported.

**Option 1: Traditional Essay**

* Length Requirement: 5 pages minimum (not counting images/graphs/works cited page)
* Source Requirement: 4 outside sources
* MLA format and documentation required
* Rough draft due Monday, June 3
* Final draft due Wednesday, June 5

**Option 2: Multimodal Abstract and Presentation**

There will be two parts to your multimodal project:

* A **two page written abstract** detailing (in brief) the characteristic features of your proposal (see EEA 343).
* An **upfront presentation** of your proposal as either an audio essay, a video essay, or a poster.

The abstract and upfront presentation combined will make up 20% of your grade (abstract 25pts./presentation 75 pts.) Upfront presentations will be graded on (1) clear vision and detailing of problem (2) a compelling solution to the problem (3) a look at other possible solutions (4) a statement of what your proposal will accomplish (5) project organization and creativity (6) professional delivery.

**Due Dates to Remember:**

Annotated Bibliography: RD due May 20 (2 sources),

FD due May 29 (5 sources)

MM Proposal Abstract and Peer Review: due June 3 (presentation sign-up)

Multimodal Presentations: June 5

**Abstract Instructions:**

Organize your abstract using the IMRAD (information, methods, research, and discussion) format. IMRAD is often employed in scholarly articles, particularly in the fields of science and social science.

1. **Information**: Define and explain the problem your project addresses. Acknowledge causes and potential consequences. Also anticipate your audience. How will you convince your audience that your topic is, in fact, a problem worth considering?
2. **Methods**: Discuss solutions that have been previously employed, as well as solutions currently at work. Detail the specific solutions you suggest, explaining how they will address the problem. Acknowledge counterarguments or objections. (Remember, your solutions do not have to *solve* the problem, but rather work to solve the problem).
3. **Research:** Explain how you researched your problem. What did you already know? What were you researching to discover? What types of sources did you find, and how did your sources contribute to your understanding of the problem and your ability to address solutions?
4. **Discussion:** Explain how you plan to engage your topic in the multimodal presentation. What design strategies have you employed? How do your design choice directly speak to your audience? What concerns do you have about your presentation, and what are you doing to address them? What have you learned from approaching a problem/solution topic in a multimodal way?

**PS Multimodal Presentation Rubric:**

1. **Audience awareness \_\_\_/10**

*(articulate the specific audience demographic you are addressing, anticipate and address what your audience knows about the topic and what objections they might have, explain how your presentation design speaks to your audience)*

1. **Establish problem \_\_\_/10**

(*detail the nature and extent of the problem, consider pertinent background information, causes/effects, and explain why the problem is an issue that needs to be solved)*

1. **Solutions**  **\_\_\_/10**

*(establish solutions looking at what has already been done, as well as any new solutions, provide convincing evidence that proposed solutions will be effective in reducing or eliminating problem)*

1. **Proposal outcomes**  **\_\_\_/10**

*(answer what the proposal will accomplish, address what will be gained, and articulate both large and small outcomes the proposal might bring about)*

1. **Organization, creativity, delivery \_\_\_/10**

*(How well does the proposal relate to the target audience? Has the proposal been well designed? Was the delivery professional?)*

1. **Peer grade**  **\_\_\_/10**

*(Consider all above categories and give the presentation a grade. Numbers reflect a typical grade scale, 7=70%, etc. You may also give mid-level grades, such as 7.5=75%)*