

## Writing Assignment 1.4

### Essay 1 (Final Submission)

You're finally ready to wrap up your first essay of the semester! A few steps to take and things to keep in mind as you complete your revisions:

1. **Reread** your essay and **revise** it in light of feedback you've received from peers and in conferences. Remember that just because I did not comment on any given passage does not mean that it couldn't be made better.
2. As you revise, keep the following in mind:
  - Your focus paragraph should introduce a *problem* and *central question* that you will be examining throughout the essay. It should present an initial interpretation (*placeholder thesis*) and tell the reader why the questions are important to consider (*motive*). Remember that you may want to revise your placeholder thesis as you finish the essay.
  - Make sure your *topic sentences* introduce the organizing claim of each paragraph and work to advance your interpretation. Remember that they should introduce *ideas* not *evidence*.
  - Use quotations from the text to build a persuasive and complete case for the accuracy of your analysis and the validity of your eventual interpretation. Have you provided your public audience of educated readers who have not read the text with everything they need to understand and assess your account? Have you left any clear openings for those you *have* read it to dispute your account?
  - Your conclusion should present your final interpretation of the text (*thesis*), state clearly how it addresses the *central question* or *problem*, and shows us why it matters (*motive*).
3. You should **reference** your class notes, class slides (available on Blackboard), and other handouts as you revise. Consider filling out the "Essay 1 Draft Peer Review" worksheet for your own essay once you finish initial revisions.
4. Include a **works cited** section at the end of your essay. Label it "Works Cited" and include MLA-style references to any texts cited in the essay (there should only be one for this assignment). See Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources* for details about how to format the entries.
5. **Format** your essay according to the manuscript submission guidelines on the syllabus, including your name, page numbers, and a title. For the purposes of this submission, the assignment name should be "Essay 1".
6. **Read** your essay **out loud** to yourself (or a friend!), or mouth the words as you read silently. Make any final changes based what you notice about phrasing or word choice as you do.

*Due as a .doc/x (Word) file via email by Sunday, 2/23 by 11:59pm.*