**Engl. 1130.010/012: Academic Writing – Final Research Essay Questions**

**Douglas College: Fall 2016**

**Drafting Classes: Nov. 24 & 29, 2016 - draft required in class, paper copy**

**Proposal Due: Nov. 8, 2016**

**Annotated Bibliography Due: Nov. 15, 2016**

**Essay Due:**

* **Dec. 1, 2016 (returned, marked with comments)**
* **Dec. 8, 2016 by Email or in NW2600 LLPA Assignment Dropbox only (not later than 12 noon (returned, marked without comments; no penalty)**

**Length: 1500-2500 words (6-10 pages double-spaced, not including works cited page)**

**No essays, no matter the excuse, will be accepted after Dec. 13, 2016.**

**Task:** Write a research paper that engages with one (1) of the following questions. Please do not combine the questions or ask to pursue your own question. Instead, try to develop a research essay that engages with one of the questions below, targeting the appropriate audience.

1. The president of Douglas College earns about $170,000.00 in annual salary. Is she worth it? (<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/public-sector-salaries/external.html?__lsa=42d4-f41e>)
2. Most students require English courses, with a minimum-level final grade, to qualify for other programs or graduate with a degree. Is there any value to this requirement?
3. Each semester, students are required to purchase textbooks in order to complete their coursework. Is this a just practice?
4. What is the most important resource for you at Douglas College?

**Instructions:** Write a research essay that addresses any aspect of one of the questions above. You must use at least five (5) scholarly sources in your paper, but not more than seven (7). You must use at least two (2) different types of peer reviewed scholarly material (sources) (i.e. a book source *and* a scholarly journal source), and not more than two (2) of your sources can be taken *directly* from the internet (this limit does not apply to scholarly articles accessed through the library database). All sources must be gathered from the Douglas College library or another College or University library—avoid public libraries. Be sure to reference your sources appropriately in an academic style that suits the disciplinary perspective that frames your essay. Failure to reference your sources correctly—in your chosen style—will affect your grade negatively and could lead to charges of plagiarism.

**Clarifications:** Please be sure your academic style and formatting is correct—its correctness or incorrectness will be assessed and will count for or against your essay grade. Part of the exercise in writing a research paper is doing the research. Use your research strategies—key words, academic disciplines / dialogues, audience, and definitions—to help build the main focus of your argument. The topic areas are not broad in order to trick you, or make things difficult; their “broadness” will allow you to bring to the essay some of your own interests and concerns. Try to write an original essay that makes an argument—of interest to you—supported through the use of your scholarly sources. Use these scholarly materials to back up your main contention, add weight to your analysis, or to illustrate how your discussion contributes to, or diverges from, conversations already under way.

While there is no strict number of quotations, summaries, etc., required for the assignment, please remember that you are being assessed on your ability to synthesize, analyze, and evaluate materials in order to make your claim(s). Essays that integrate varied, authoritative, scholarly (peer reviewed), source materials in a number of ways and for different purposes will receive higher grades than those that emphasize summary, unscholarly sources (magazines, webpages), and haphazard integration or engagement. Remember that this assignment represents the culmination of all the rhetorical strategies we have covered in the course and should reflect a high-level of rhetorical skill for top marks. At the same time, because this is the final essay for the course, it should reflect the highest possible standards in the English language. The essay should reflect precision and care in its sentence structure, word choices, and rhetorical development.

**Tips:** Remember to gloss any unfamiliar terms and define the language you are using if it is abstract or could be construed in many different ways. At all times, work toward a precise statement of meaning that reinforces a specific claim, and that references the question under discussion. Maintain academic writing style throughout the essay. In particular, edit to eliminate wordiness, slang, contractions, rhetorical questions, second person (“you”), first person (“I”, “we”), and spelling errors. Be sure to proofread (or have someone else proofread) the essay before you submit it. This essay must conform to all of the academic conventions required of the formal research essay.

**Checklist:**

* Do you have an argumentative thesis sentence?
* Are the sources selected relevant to your thesis sentence or general claim?
* Have you written an interesting introduction that indicates your main idea or thesis?
* Do you explain and introduce your quotations making sure to indicate their significance to your argument?
* Have you sufficiently explained the summary or quotation?
* Is there seamless integration between your sentences and the quotations from the source?
* Is your essay well organized according to a logical line of reasoning?
* Do you quote and/or summarize from the articles effectively?
* Is the writing style formal and academic?
* Have you edited to eliminate grammatical and syntactical errors?
* Does the conclusion of the essay summarize the main points and move a little beyond them?
* Is your essay formatted correctly according to the most recent MLA or APA style guidelines?
* Do you have an awesome title?

**All penalties outlined in the course outline / syllabus apply to this essay. Plagiarized paper will be penalized according to the Douglas College Academic Integrity Policy.**