

## English 205 Final Essay – Proposal Argument

“What should be done?” This is a question that is posed often and in many contexts in response to a myriad of issues. The answer to this question is seldom easy, but, whether the issue is small or large, it usually takes the form of a proposal. Your final paper in this class will be a 7- 10-page proposal that looks carefully at a current issue and answers the question of “what should be done.” In the coming weeks, we will discuss two novels that look into imagined futures. Both Orwell and Atwood present stories that illustrate the possible outcomes of technological and social advances. Both novels raise questions about issues that remain current today. (See other side for a short list.) Although you are not required to, you may wish to focus on one of these issues in your proposal and include discussion of the novel in your argument. In any case, your proposal should make a strong argument with solid reasons and evidence to support its claims. Be sure to consider your audience and anticipate rebuttals and questions.

In addition to thinking about the issues raised by your readings and keeping up with current events, consider visiting the SIRS database and CQ Researcher located in the “Articles and Databases” section of the Miramar College Library website (<http://www.sdmiramar.edu/root/instruction/LIBR/index.asp>). Be sure to visit the library to get login codes so you can access materials from home.

Your research paper must use SEVEN (7) or more sources, properly cited and referenced according to MLA style. Only 30% of your sources may be Internet-based—the majority must come from print-based resources. (More on this later.)

### Important Dates:

- Proposal Paper Proposal due (50 points). **Wed: 11/ 5 Thur: 11/6**
- Individual Conference (20 points) Bring a detailed outline and all source material **See Syllabus**
- In-Class Presentations (20 points) Research Paper due (100 points) **See Syllabus**

### The Research Proposal (Please limit to one page)

You must submit a proposal (yes, a proposal for your proposal, work with me here) that outlines the topic and scope of the project. This proposal should be concise but thorough. I will award points based on how well you define your project, and how completely you address the items listed below. A maximum of 50 points is possible.

Your proposal must include the following (though not necessarily in this order):

- ✓ Explain the issue you will write about. Clarify important terms, historical contexts, and key points as necessary.
- ✓ Explain why you find this topic attractive and/or interesting. In other words, why did you select it?
- ✓ Explain how you plan to make this topic interesting to your classmates (your audience)
- ✓ What, specifically, are you proposing? In other words, what action should be taken? Or what policy adopted?
- ✓ Incorporate at least two different sources relating to this topic. (Credit these sources with in-text citations.)
- ✓ List the sources referenced in this proposal under the heading, “Works Cited” at the bottom of the page.

### Format for Research Paper

The research paper will be 7 to 10 typed, double-spaced pages (not including the Works Cited page). It must explore the same topic referred to in your research proposal. The paper should be primarily your own words and ideas, but you will also need to incorporate material from at least seven (7) additional sources. Any quotes in your paper must include proper in-text citations; and each source you use must appear on your Works Cited page. (Conversely, if you do not quote or otherwise use information from a source, it should not appear in your Works Cited page.) Do not create a separate title page or put the paper in a document folder—just include your name and date in the upper left-hand corner as you have with other essays. Not adhering to the above guidelines will lower your essay’s grade.

### The In-Class Presentation

Your research paper will also be used as the basis for a brief, informal, in-class presentation. You will present your paper, its topic and your stance, in front of the class during the last week of school. You must include some sort of helpful visual(s) in your presentation. You may create a PowerPoint if you like. Please let me know if you will require other technology. The purpose of the presentation is twofold; first, preparing to speak on your work will help you to determine the effectiveness and completeness of your paper, and second, hearing you discuss your paper prior to my reading and evaluating it will assist me in grading your essay.

