Fifth Writing Assignment: Final Draft
MMW 13, Spring 2015

Length: 8-10 pages + Works Cited page (using 12-point font; print dark enough to read)

Due date: Hard copy due in section Tuesday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 3. Electronic copy due to Turnitin.com by 11:59 pm on the same day hard copy is due. (Submission instructions in a separate handout.)

Format: MLA format, following MMW Program Policy guidelines

Percentage of Final Course Grade: 14%. You must complete all five writing assignments to pass MMW 13.

For this assignment, you must turn in a portfolio of all graded copies of the first 4 assignments, including all rough drafts with readers’ comments, and the final draft. Please consult with your TA if you are unsure what to include in your final folder.

The goal of the fifth assignment is to revise the rough draft and produce a polished final draft that makes a cogent, persuasive, research-based, academic argument on an issue relevant to the course and that represents your best work.

Please see the grading rubric for a complete list of criteria to meet in your final draft. Below are a few highlights.

Present a thesis that is:
- Arguable and answers a level 3 question
- Amenable to scholarly research
- Appropriate to the course concerns and historical period covered in MMW 13

Write an introduction that provides:
- An indication of your topic
- The problem or question that you are addressing
- The scholarly and historical context of your research
- Your thesis statement
- An indication of the significance of your topic and question (the “so what?”)

Write a conclusion that:
- Summarizes your argument
- Reiterates and elaborates on your “so what?”
- Explains the significance of your thesis

When presenting your evidence:
- Explain which of your claims each piece of evidence supports
- Explain how the evidence supports your claims
- Acknowledge your sources clearly and correctly, whether you quote, summarize, or paraphrase an author’s words or draw upon an author’s ideas
• Use direct quotation sparingly and only when necessary
• Present factually and culturally accurate information

When addressing counterarguments:
• Acknowledge scholars whose positions differ from yours
• Explain how each counterargument differs from your own claims
• Present the evidence that supports each counterargument
• Rebut each counterargument (i.e., explain why your claims are stronger)

Follow MLA format as specified on the MMW Program Policies handout:
• Provide a list of Works Cited that gives complete MLA-style citations for all of the
  works you cite in your paper. Do not include entries for works you do not cite.
• Cite all statements of observation and opinion that are indebted to other authors
  for their content—even if they are in your own words. Also cite all direct
  quotations, summaries and paraphrases. When in doubt, give credit to your
  sources.

Overall, your paper will succeed if you:
• Clearly define the historical and geographical context of your topic
• Situate yourself within an ongoing academic conversation and raise a valuable
  issue
• Present a persuasively argued point that is amply supported with relevant,
  scholarly evidence, including evidence from at least one journal article
• Acknowledge and respond to points of view other than your own
• Discuss the significance of your claims
• Organize your paper well and write with your readers’ needs in mind (e.g., by
  providing transitions and topic sentences to help readers to follow your train of
  reasoning, defining unfamiliar or key terms, and providing vivid, concrete
  examples)
• Follow MLA format as specified on the MMW Program Policies handout.
• Write clear, stylistically effective, grammatically and mechanically correct
  expository prose
SUBMISSION CHECKLIST: Turn in the following items:

___ 8- to 10-page final draft
___ Works Cited page in MLA format, including at least one scholarly article you have cited in the paper
___ Turnitin.com submission by 11:59 pm on the same day hard copy is due
___ Handwritten, dated, and signed statement, as follows: “I attest that I am submitting my own original work in this assignment. Where I have included the words or ideas of others, I have cited this material according to the guidelines stated in the MMW Program Policies and A Writer's Reference”
___ Photocopies or printouts of all material you cited in the text, with cover pages and relevant passages highlighted, labeled with the source’s author and title, and arranged in the order cited in the body of the paper
___ Printout of rubric for Assignment 5
___ Graded copies of the first 4 assignments, including all copies of rough drafts with readers’ comments
___ Folder for all of the above

[updated 5/14/15, eb]