

College Writing II
Dr. Pinkham
Position Essay

For this assignment, you will write an original, researched, and well-supported opinion essay on a race-related topic of your choice. Race in America will be the main topic we'll be writing about. Using at least three sources, whether they be reliable websites, popular magazines, newspapers, academic journals, or books (the Bible does not count as one of these three, although you can use it in addition to the others), you will write an essay arguing your position on an engaging topic. The essay must be **at least three to five** full pages long. All the skills gained during College Writing I, including good development, research, good argument, correct writing, and correct documentation are to be demonstrated in this paper. Make sure you support your claims with sufficient examples, evidence, and explanations that readers can fully comprehend the point you are trying to make.

Choose your topic wisely. You will ideally keep that topic through at least four assignments, expanding your knowledge and skills as you progress through those assignments. I am open to students changing topics that aren't working for them; however, changing topics will mean that you will have to go back to the drawing board each time you change. For your own sake, you should prefer to build on and expand what you have learned, not constantly start over. Please run your topic by me as soon as you can, so I can help you focus your topic better and/or redirect topics that won't work well.

Remember that you're writing an essay that is trying to convince someone, namely me, your classmates, and the greater "Academic Discourse Community," to agree with your position or to at least give it fair consideration. Respectful language and compassion are of the utmost importance. The essay must be double-spaced, using a 12-point font (I recommend Times New Roman). Use one-inch margins, the MLA header including your name, the class, my name, and the date. Don't forget to include your last name and page numbers in the top right-hand corner of each page. Make sure you pay excruciating attention to grammar, spelling, syntax, and mechanics. I strongly encourage you to visit the Writing Center. Read your paper out loud at least to yourself, and maybe to a friend. Write to express, not to impress. Enter the conversation that educated, respectful people are having about your topic and show how much you know about it while also sharing your position and your voice on the topic.

Due date: **Friday February 12th**
This essay is worth 10% of your final grade.