

BE TU110 Essay Assignment

If I had more time, I would have written less.

– Attributed to Mark Twain (and others)

The essay assignment is to write an academic style, research based, persuasive essay.

At the end of this assignment you will find a list with your topic for the essay. Each topic has made important contributions to humanity. Your assignment is to write a persuasive essay which answers the question, “How was the world changed by your topic?” As this is a humanities class, your answer to this question should be related to the liberal arts.

Before continuing, you should read the handout, Essay Focus and Thesis Statements.

Remember that since this is a persuasive essay, your thesis statement must be based on your opinion. A thesis statement which is merely an objective statement of fact will not work for this assignment. Wait until after you have done some research to choose a thesis, so that you can select one based on your most interesting and original ideas. Please note, your essay does not have to argue that the way your subject changed the world was necessarily beneficial.

Underline your thesis statement in the introductory paragraph of your essay.

Research: It is impossible to write intelligently about a subject with which you are unfamiliar, therefore the majority of your effort should go into properly researching your topic. Begin by reading Wikipedia pages, but once you have a good, basic understanding of your topic, “Google” the relevant terms to cast a wider net for reputable sources. Read everything you can and follow all the links that interest you. Go to the library and search for books and articles on your topic. The librarians are there to help you. FYI, you can also search the Thammasat libraries on the internet: <http://search.library.tu.ac.th/>

Keep track of your sources! You will need to know where you found your facts when the time comes to add footnotes and citations to your essay.

The Art of Persuasion: The best way to convince the reader to share your opinion is to briefly educate the reader about your topic and then to provide a series of factual examples that lead the reader to agree with your thesis statement. If there are obvious counter-arguments to your position, they should also be briefly addressed.

Your essay should flow logically from point to point. When proof-reading each sentence of your essay, ask yourself, “How does this sentence help support my position?” Edit each sentence to remove any material that does not help you make your argument, even if that means deleting the whole sentence.

Sources: Use a wide variety of reputable sources when researching your essay. Using many different sources will make you more knowledgeable about your subject and also enable you to catch any factual inconsistencies between sources.

- All of the sources cited by your essay must be in English.
- You may use Wikipedia as a source, but do not use it as your only source. Use a wide variety of reputable sources.
- Reputable sources of information are usually large web sites (and books, magazines, newspapers, etc.) that represent organizations which have a strong interest in propagating factual material.
- Bad sources of information are often written by just one person with no editors or peer review. Many websites are written by individuals with strong opinions, but who have no particular expertise and who often base their arguments on biased (or false) information.
- If you are getting your information from a website, ask: “Who wrote this?” “Are they an authority on this subject?” “Is this information biased?”
- Do not use TU110 class lectures as sources.
- Never use “free essay” websites as sources for ideas or information.

Citations: The purpose of using citations is to allow the reader to verify the facts in your essay. You must provide citations for any facts in your essay that are not common knowledge. MLA Style is commonly used in the humanities,¹ but you may use any citation style with which you are already familiar, so long as it enables the reader to verify the facts in your essay. For this assignment, the following simplified citation style is sufficient:

Web pages:	Author(s). “Article Title.” <i>Name of the Website</i> . Date accessed. <URL>
example	Wikipedia contributors. "Sistine Chapel." <i>Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia</i> . 3 Aug. 2010. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sistine_chapel >
Books:	Author(s). <i>Title of Book</i> . Year of Publication. page number(s).
example	Stephenson, Neal. <i>The Diamond Age</i> . 1995. p.127-130.
Magazines & Newspapers:	Author(s). "Title of Article." <i>Title of Periodical</i> Day Month Year: pages.
example	Trip, Gabriel. “Plagiarism Lines Blur for Students in Digital Age.” <i>The New York Times</i> 2 Aug. 2010:A1.

Footnotes: Place your citations in footnotes at the bottom of the page.² Insert the superscripted footnote reference numbers in the text immediately after the factual information which you are providing citations for.

Place all of your citations in footnotes, not endnotes. Do not include a bibliography or a list of works cited.

¹ “Plagiarism Tutorial: Getting to Know Your Citation Guide.” *San Jose State University Library*. 3 Aug. 2010. <<http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/tutorial/16citation.htm>>

² This is an example of a footnote. Learn to use Microsoft Word’s “insert footnote” function to create footnotes.

Format:

- Word count:** Your essay must be 500-1250 words, not including footnotes.
- Spacing:** Your essay must be double-spaced.
- Font:** Times New Roman, 12 point font. Footnote text should be 10 point font.
- Text:** All of the text in the essay must be black. Except for thesis statements and names of artworks, do not use bold or underline for emphasis. Do not break up the text with subheadings.
- Margins:** Use 2.54 cm margins at the top and bottom of the page and 3.17 cm margins on the left and right.
- Paragraphs:** Indent one centimeter at the beginnings of paragraphs.
- Alignment:** Align the text to the left margin. Do not “justify” the text so that it is aligned to both the left and right margins.
- Heading:** At the top-center of the first page, on separate lines, write your student number, your name, the subject of your essay, and your essay’s word count.
- Page #'s:** Insert page numbers at the lower right corner of the page.
- Pictures:** Do not put pictures in your essay. If you absolutely must show the reader a picture, put it in an appendix at the end of the essay.

Essay Structure: In the first paragraph, introduce your topic in an engaging manner (catch the reader’s attention), and present your thesis statement. In the body of the essay, use support paragraphs to educate your reader about your topic and to make your argument. You should have at least three support paragraphs and each paragraph should flow logically from one to the next. Finally, you should finish with a conclusion paragraph that restates your thesis in light of the argument that you have made, demonstrates to the reader that you have successfully argued your position, and wraps up the essay as a whole.

Follow these rules to avoid common mistakes:

- Every paragraph must have at least three sentences.
- All of the sentences in a paragraph should be on the same topic.
- Do not put spaces before commas or periods.
- Insert superscripted footnote reference numbers immediately after periods and commas, but before the space before the next word.
- After you write and proof-read your essay, set it aside for a day or two and then proof-read it again.
- If you are not confident about your English, have somebody fluent in English proof-read your essay.

Academic Style: When writing for an academic environment, follow these rules:

- The subject and tone of your essay should be mature and dignified.
- Do not fawn over your subject.
- Write in proper English. Do not write in the same casual language that you use when speaking with friends.
- Be invisible. Do not use the words “I” or “me” when writing. The reader understands that it is the author’s view that is being expressed.
- Do not use contractions. (Do not write “don’t.”)

Intended Readership: The essay should be written so that anybody who reads it will find it interesting. Pretend that you are writing the essay for a scholarly magazine. Do not try to target your essay for the individual that happens to be grading it.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism means presenting somebody else's words or ideas as if they were your own. Use only your own words and ideas when writing the essay. Before beginning your essay, read the plagiarism tutorial.³ It has excellent information about plagiarism, copying, paraphrasing, and citations. The plagiarism tutorial is required reading.

Copying: Copying is a serious academic offense. Use only your own words and ideas when writing the essay. The best way to avoid copying is to master the material, set your paper aside for a day or two, and then write based on your own knowledge without looking at your source material, just as if you were taking an exam.

Some students think it is acceptable to copy as long as they add a citation to their source. They are wrong. It is not acceptable to copy under any circumstance.

Some students think it is acceptable to copy if they only copy "a little bit." They are wrong. It is not acceptable to copy even a short phrase within a sentence.

Some students think it is acceptable to copy if they change a few words. They are wrong. Changing a few words is not paraphrasing (see the plagiarism tutorial for more about paraphrasing), it is still copying. Furthermore, copying of this sort often renders the text incomprehensible.

A favorite refrain of students that are caught copying is, "There is no other way to write it!" This is utter nonsense. Learn the material well enough so that you can write in your own words.

No Quotes: Quoting is a normal feature of essay writing, but absolutely no quoting is allowed for this assignment. The entire essay must be in your own words.

Grammar: If you are not confident about your English, try to keep your sentences short and simple. Occasional, minor errors in grammar will not affect your grade, but frequent, significant errors will have a detrimental effect. (FYI, Microsoft Word does have a built in grammar-checker.)

Spelling: Use the spell-checker in your word processor before submitting your essay. Including misspelled and nonsensical words in your essay tells the reader that you have so little respect for the assignment, your own work, and the reader that you could not even be bothered to let the spell-checker catch obvious mistakes. (Word also has a spell-checker.)

Grading: Essays will receive letter grades which correspond to point scores as follows:

A: 95 B: 85 C: 75 D: 55 F: 0

Your essay will be graded on how well you followed these instructions, how original and interesting your essay is, how well researched your essay is, and how well developed and persuasive your argument is.

Statement of Understanding: The last page of this handout is a Statement of Understanding. It must be completed and turned in before any credit will be given for the essay. Please hand it in on **September 4**.

³ <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/selector.htm>

Essays are due by 11.55 p.m. on [September 17](#)

Essays are to be turned in by Moodle. You must upload two (2) copies of your essay, the original file and a PDF version of the file. Rename both files with your student number only, for example, “5504641234.doc” and “5504641234.pdf”. Make sure to open and check the PDF version before turning it in.

Penalties: Late papers will be penalized 10 points per day. Failing to follow the relevant instructions regarding topic, sources, citations, academic style, format, quotes, or spelling may each also result in 10-point penalties. Copying or plagiarism will likely result in an F, with no possibility of writing a make-up essay.

NOTES:

- I am happy to discuss your essay with you and to answer any and all questions you may have, but I do not read draft versions of the essay.
- The best way to ask questions about your essay is print a copy of it and to meet with me in person. I am also happy to try to answer your questions by email, just do not attach a draft of your essay to the email (see previous note).
- Students that are not satisfied with the grade they receive on the essay may write a new essay on a new topic for a new grade, but the highest grade I will give to second essays is a B. If you wish to do this, email me and ask for a new topic. Make-up essays are due by email at midnight before the last class.

Essay Topics

1	5504640029	George Orwell
2	5504640060	Ai Weiwei
3	5504640078	Vladimir Lenin
4	5504640086	Albert Einstein
5	5504640094	Islamic Golden Age
6	5504640102	René Descartes
7	5504640110	Pope Julius II
8	5504640128	Christopher Wren
9	5504640136	Muhammad
10	5504640151	Karl Marx
11	5504640169	Vincent Van Gogh
12	5504640193	Thomas Hobbes
13	5504640219	El Greco
14	5504640227	Frank Ghery
15	5504640235	Walter Elias "Walt" Disney
16	5504640243	Jean-Jacques Rousseau
17	5504640268	Honore Daumier
18	5504640276	Robert Venturi
19	5504640284	Gian Lorenzo Bernini
20	5504640292	Voltaire
21	5504640318	Moses
22	5504640326	Kazimir Malevich
23	5504640334	Damien Hirst
24	5504640342	Ray Charles
25	5504640367	Abraham
26	5504640375	Hollywood
27	5504640391	Pericles
28	5504640409	Francis of Assisi
29	5504640417	Franscesco Petrarch
30	5504640425	Clint Eastwood
31	5504640433	Edouard Manet
32	5504640441	Filippo Brunelleschi
33	5504640458	Pablo Picasso
34	5504640466	Jules Verne
35	5504640474	Antoni Gaudi
36	5504640482	Cicero
37	5504640490	The Beatles
38	5504640508	Tang Dynasty
39	5504640516	John Locke
40	5504640524	Raffaello Sanzio
41	5504640532	John Stuart Mill
42	5504640540	John D. Rockefeller
43	5504640557	Salvador Dali
44	5504640565	Leonardo da Vinci
45	5504640573	Paul Cezanne

46	5504640599	Catholicism
47	5504640607	George Eastman
48	5504640615	Jean-Paul Sartre
49	5504640631	The Rolling Stones
50	5504640656	Alexander the Great
51	5504640664	Cleisthenes
52	5504640672	Herodotus
53	5504640698	Han Dynasty
54	5504640706	Marcel Duchamp
55	5504640714	The Guggenheim Family
56	5504640748	Ansel Adams
57	5504640755	Eugene Delacroix
58	5504640763	Thomas Aquinas
59	5504640771	Thomas Jefferson
60	5504640797	Harlem
61	5504640805	Islam
62	5504640813	Peter Paul Rubens
63	5504640821	Sigmung Freud
64	5504640839	Virgil
65	5504640847	Donatello
66	5504640862	Akhenaten
67	5504640870	Joss Whedon
68	5504640896	Albert Camus
69	5504640904	Tycho Brahe
70	5504640912	Tenzin Gyatso
71	5504640920	Marcus Aurelius
72	5504640938	Martin Luther
73	5504640946	Mary Wollstonecraft
74	5504640953	Charlemagne
75	5504640979	Louis XIV
76	5504640987	Confucius
77	5504640995	Ovid
78	5504641001	Aristophanes
79	5504641027	Jackson Pollock
80	5504641035	Mao Zedong
81	5504641043	Michelangelo
82	5504641050	Takashi Murakami
83		Cosimo de' Medici
84		Malcolm X
85		Jacques-Louis David
86		Aristotle
87		Paul Gauguin
88		Plato
89		Homer
90		World War I

TU 110 Statement of Understanding

I, _____,

student ID # _____, am currently enrolled in

Russell Jones' TU 110 Integrated Humanities class. I have read and understood the Course Outline, the Essay Assignment, and the Plagiarism Tutorial.

- I understand that no copying or plagiarism is allowed in TU 110 assignments.
- I understand that “no copying” means no copying at all, not even a little bit.
- I understand that I must write using only my own words.
- I understand that no credit will be given for assignments that contain copied material, including the essay assignment and the group project assignment.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____