

BE TU110 2012-2 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, “What is most interesting about this 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.

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 of ideas or information.

Citations: The purpose of using citations is to allow the reader to verify the facts in your essay. For this assignment, please use the following simplified citation style:

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.
Other:	If you need other types of citations, please use the Berkeley guide to MLA style which can be found in the Xtras folder of the class download page.

Footnotes: Place your citations in footnotes at the bottom of the page.¹ Insert the superscripted footnote reference numbers in the text after the factual information which you are providing citations for, immediately after periods (full-stops).

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

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.

¹ This is an example of a footnote. Learn to use Microsoft Word’s “insert footnote” function to create footnotes.

- 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.
- Each paragraph begins with a topic sentence and all of the sentences within each paragraph are related to that paragraph’s topic.
- Do not put spaces before commas or periods (full-stops). Put only one space after commas and 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.² 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. There are no exceptions to this rule.

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
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Your essay will be graded on how well you followed these instructions, how well researched your essay is, how original and interesting 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 signed and turned in before any credit will be given for the essay. Attach your signed Statement of Understanding to the back of your essay when you turn the printed copy in.

² <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/selector.htm>

Essays are due at 8:00 a.m. on February 11

Essays are to be turned in twice:

1. First, you must upload two copies of your essay to moodle: the original file and a PDF version of the file. (Make sure to open and check the PDF version before turning it in.) Rename both files with your student number only (for example, “5402641234.doc” and “5402641234.pdf”).
2. Second, you must print your essay and turn it in before class begins on the due date. Print your essay double-sided on normal white paper. Use one (1) staple to attach your essay pages and your signed Statement of Understanding.

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, however I am not able to read draft versions of the essays.
- The best way to ask questions about your essay is print a copy of it and to meet with me in person.
- If you ask a question by email, do not attach your essay to the email. Include relevant sections of text in the body of the email itself.
- 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 should be turned in by email and hardcopy (printed). Make-up essays are due before the beginning of the last class.

Essay Topics

5404640285	Akhenaten
5504641068	Karl Marx
5504641076	Dante Alighieri
5504641084	Elvis Presley
5504641092	Bob Dylan
5504641100	Jesus
5504641118	Laozi
5504641126	Walter Elias "Walt" Disney
5504641134	The Beatles
5504641159	John Stuart Mill
5504641167	Confucius
5504641191	Andy Warhol
5504641209	Filippo Brunelleschi
5504641217	Pablo Picasso
5504641233	Michelangelo
5504641241	Donatello
5504641258	Marcel Duchamp
5504641266	Madonna (1958-)
5504641274	Francis Bacon (1909-1992)
5504641282	Joss Whedon
5504641290	Tenzin Gyatso
5504641308	Muhammad
5504641324	Leonardo da Vinci
5504641340	Franscesco Petrarch
5504641357	Albert Camus
5504641365	Takashi Murakami
5504641373	Francisco Goya
5504641381	Eugene Delacroix
5504641407	John D. Rockefeller
5504641415	Shakespeare
5504641431	Quentin Tarantino
5504641449	Tycho Brahe
5504641456	Mary Shelly
5504641464	Mao Zedong
5504641472	Jules Verne
5504641480	Paul Gauguin
5504641498	Moses
5504641506	Aristophanes
5504641514	Pope Julius II
5504641522	Ansel Adams
5504641530	Vincent Van Gogh
5504641548	Aristotle
5504641563	Islam
5504641597	Honore Daumier
5504641605	Jacques-Louis David
5504641613	Paul Cezanne

5504641621	Jean-Paul Sartre
5504641639	René Descartes
5504641647	Alexander the Great
5504641654	Julius Caesar
5504641670	Kazimir Malevich
5504641688	Harlem
5504641696	Clint Eastwood
5504641712	Vladimir Lenin
5504641720	Frank Lloyd Wright
5504641738	Lorenzo de' Medici
5504641746	Charles Darwin
5504641753	Damien Hirst
5504641761	George Orwell
5504641779	Virgil
5504641795	Oscar Wilde
5504641811	Thomas Aquinas
5504641837	Orson Welles
5504641845	Voltaire
5504641852	Augustus Caesar
5504641878	Cicero
5504641886	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
5504641894	Han Dynasty
5504641902	Catholicism
5504641910	Ludwig van Beethoven
5504641936	Plato
5504641944	Charlemagne
5504641951	Jean-Jacques Rousseau
5504641977	Christopher Wren
5504641985	Frank Ghery
5504641993	Soren Kierkegaard
5504642025	Thomas Jefferson
5504642041	Galileo Galilei
5504642066	Cosimo de' Medici
5504642074	Thomas Hobbes
5504642082	Tang Dynasty
5504642090	John Locke
5504642108	Claude Monet
5504642124	Titian
5504642132	The Guggenheim Family
5504642140	World War I
	Pericles
	Islamic Golden Age
	Gian Lorenzo Bernini
	Mary Wollstonecraft

BE TU 110 2012-2 Statement of Understanding

I, _____,

Student I.D. # _____, am currently enrolled in
Russell Jones' TU 110 Integrated Humanities class.

- I have read and understood the TU 110 Course Outline, the Plagiarism Tutorial, the Essay Assignment, and the Group Project Assignment.
- If there was anything in any of the above readings which I did not understand, I asked Russell Jones questions until I did understand.
- 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: _____