

Clark College English 101 Common Final Assignment Template

Spring 2009

The English Department has agreed to the following parameters for a common final assignment for English 101. Our agreement is that all instructors of English 101, both full-time and adjunct, will follow these guidelines in our final essay assignment of the quarter, Fall 08.

1. Each instructor will choose one of the following topics for the final essay assignment:
 - a. Food crisis
 - b. Class Issues
 - c. Effects on the Brain of Reading and Learning Online
 - d. Morality of the Green Marketplace

2. For each topic, above, the department has agreed on one common reading that provides a complex, in-depth perspective on the topic. Each instructor who chooses that topic will assign the reading that goes along with the topic, and students will be required to use the reading as one critical source for the final essay. All students in any given class will do the same topic; they will not be permitted to choose from among the three. Teachers will choose *one topic for the whole class*. The readings follow the assignment remainder of this assignment description.

3. Each instructor will decide whether she/he wants to sequence the class in such a way as to build toward the final essay (i.e., structure the class around the selected topic throughout the quarter), or not. When instructors submit final essays for our holistic reading, they may be asked to identify whether the topic was used as a framework for the entire course.

4. Final essays will have the additional following parameters:
 - a. The paper's thesis is arguable and essay builds an argument to support thesis
 - b. The paper should be 5-6 pages
 - c. The paper should make use of 3-4 credible, college-level sources, including the common reading; students should be asked to adhere to this limit and not use more or less than the required number of sources
 - d. The paper should take about 3 weeks to teach, research, draft, and revise.
 - e. The paper should count for 25% of the student's final grade in English 101.
 - f. Instructors are free to grade their students' essays using the rubric that was chosen for the norming process held last years or to choose another rubric as they wish.

New readings for three current assignments and suggestions for new assignments with readings

1. For a paper exploring the food crisis:

Lavelle, Marianne and Kent Garber. "Fixing the Food Crisis." U.S. News & World Report.

19 May 2008. 144:14. ProQuest.

<http://0-proquest.umi.com.oswald.clark.edu:80/pqdweb?did=1490115681&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=11109&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

2. For a paper examining the disappearing middle class:

Scott, Janny and David Leonhart. "[Class in America: Shadowy Lines That Still Divide; CLASS MATTERS: First article in a series.](#)" The New York Times. 15 May 2005. ProQuest.

<http://0-proquest.umi.com.oswald.clark.edu/pqdweb?index=1&did=839712251&SrchMode=1&sid=1&Fmt=3&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1231796347&clientId=11109>

3. For a paper discussing the effects on the brain of reading and learning online:

Carr, Nicholas. "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" The Atlantic Monthly. Jul/Aug 2008. 302:1

Research Library Complete. ProQuest. Cannell Library, Vancouver, WA.

<http://0-proquest.umi.com.oswald.clark.edu/pqdweb?index=3&did=1586939721&SrchMode=2&sid=2&Fmt=3&VInst=PROD&VType=PQD&RQT=309&VName=PQD&TS=1231797352&clientId=11109>

4. For a paper exploring the "morality" of the green marketplace and the complexities of altering human activities in order to affect global warming:

Spector, Michael. "Big Foot." The New Yorker. 25 Feb. 2008. 84:2. EBSCOHost.

<http://0-search.ebscohost.com.oswald.clark.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=30032342&site=ehost-live&scope=site>