## ENGL 1102

Janssen

**Position Papers: Portfolio Part II**

Although this assignment is listed on the syllabus as a single large chunk of your overall grade (30%), you will have a considerable amount of latitude in determining the content and structure of this work. I use the phrase “position paper” for this assignment, a term that is usually found in the world of politics, business, and law, simply to underscore the importance of taking a position on a single issue in your work. The position you choose to take should be based on the material you have already compiled in your annotated bibliography.

**Content**

Your work for this assignment should be based on the research you complete for the annotated bibliography. So, in an important sense, your subject should be an extension of research you’ve already completed on your major, though instead of thinking exclusively as an academic program of undergraduate study, it is probably more valuable at this point to think in terms of your discipline. In other words, if your major is biology, the subject should have something to do with the discipline of biology, and you should be able to demonstrate that connection. The goal of this project is to “enter the conversation” of your discipline, or, if you are still trying to determine your major, to help you make an informed choice.

**Structure**

Your overall objective is to produce a work of original research that is at least 10-12 pages long. To accomplish this, you could write one paper, or you could split the work into two 5-6 page papers. Regardless, the total number of pages for your position papers should be 10-12 pages, not counting your Works Cited page or pages. Your decision should be guided by the content in your annotated bibliography. You may have several distinct subtopics in your bibliography. In that case, it would probably make sense to write more than one. If, on the other hand, most of your research focuses on a single issue, it would make sense to put it all together in one paper. We will collaborate on this decision as we move forward with the project.

**Methodology**

Your essay or essays should be focused on a specific thesis, which should follow “the most important template” of *They Say / I Say*. That is, your central point (thesis) should be framed as a response to a particular piece of the conversation that is featured in your annotated bibliography. **This is the most important part of this assignment.**  Your thesis should make a worthwhile contribution to the conversation, but it should also be focused on a specific aspect of your topic. You must incorporate at least 50% (6/12) of the research collected in your annotated bibliography in your position paper or papers, and if you choose to write two essays for your portfolio, you will need to include at least 3 sources in each one. You certainly may use a single source more than once.

**Moves**

Your essay(s) will be composed according to *They Say / I Say* principles, using a minimum of 20 *moves* from that book. If you are writing two papers, it would make sense to include 10 in each one. The following moves must be included in each paper:

* Play the “believing game” at least once in each position paper. In other words, each paper should include at least one summary of one of your sources.
* Include at least one “quotation sandwich.”
* Use of templates in Chapter Four to frame a “yes,” “no,” or “okay, but” thesis.
* Use of templates in Chapter Seven to address “So What?” and “Who Cares?” questions.
* You must plant a naysayer.

You may use the other moves included in *They Say / I Say* in whatever combination you deem necessary and/or appropriate. Use footnotes to indicate the moves that you use in each paper.[[1]](#footnote-1)

All papers should be double-spaced, using 12 pt. font.

**Due Dates**

All of your portfolio work should be completed by the date of the final exam. This includes all of your annotated bibliography as well as the position paper or papers. The peer review process for your portfolio work is particularly important and **is considered an essential component of your completed portfolio**. Therefore, you must bring to class a draft in progress for each of the following peer review sessions:

Peer Review Session #1: 10/29

Peer Review Session #2: 11/12

1. This is a footnote. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)