ENGL 1102

Janssen

**Position Papers: A Portfolio**

Although this assignment as listed 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 format 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, the subject for your portfolio is fundamentally the same as the subject for essay #2, your major in other words. The goal of this project is to “enter the conversation” of your discipline.

**Structure**

You may choose to write one big paper for your portfolio. You might also write 2 medium-sized papers. Or, youcould write 3 shorter papers. Regardless, the total number of pages for your position papers should be 12-18 pages, not counting your Works Cited page or pages. If you write 2 papers, each one should be 6-9 pages long. If you write 3, each should be 4-6 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 2 or 3 different papers. 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 75% (9/12) of the research collected in your annotated bibliography in your position paper or papers, and if you choose to write multiple essays for your portfolio, you will need to divide your research evenly among the separate papers. For instance, if you write 3 different papers, you should use at least 3 sources in each of those papers.

**Moves**

Your essay(s) will be composed according to *They Say / I Say* principles, and each one should include a minimum of 10 *moves* from that book. 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 letter size.

**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. Since these 2 assignments comprise nearly half of your overall grade for the class, I strongly recommend that you NOT wait until that final due date to turn in everything. You may, for example, turn in individual pieces of your portfolio, including single annotations, as you complete them. You may seek feedback from me at any point in the process, and to further ensure that you are making adequate progress, 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: 3/26 (M) and 3/27 (T)

Peer Review Session #2: 4/2 (M) and 4/3 (T)

Peer Review Session #3: 4/16 (M ) and 4/17 (T)

You are welcome to turn in a final draft of your position paper or papers after the date of the 3rd peer review session. You must provide at least one review for each paper you turn in. Failure to do so will result in a 10-point deduction in your score for the paper.

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