

Contribution Essay

So far, you have responded to existing questions and explored a conversation's terrain; in this essay, you are adding your own voice to the conversation, contributing and moving it in a different direction. What perspective do you bring to this conversation? Here, you're not agreeing/disagreeing with sources, or answering a yes/no question, but adding your own argument to those existing, asking your reader to think about a question in a new way. You also can choose the conversation you'd like to participate in - the only stipulation is that it participates in the larger discourse on language and identity. Also feel free to write about topics you've explored already this semester!

Assignment Goals:

- To develop your own project and set of aims
- To engage with a range of sources purposefully and ethically
- To offer feedback on and revise an extended writing piece

Contribution Essay Questions: 10/06

Before digging deep into research and writing, it's important to talk with others about the question you think you'll pursue in your work. What interests you? Has prompted you to ask more questions? In class, we'll get a sense of the room's interest and talk about our questions and their frameworks. Have at least 2 questions in mind.

Essay Proposal (25 points) - 10/11 by 2:00 pm

The proposal allows you to engage in some early research before committing to a paper's central topic and question, articulate the project of the work you wish to undertake, and get an early round of feedback before significant reading and writing has been done. In your proposal, state your question and topic, discuss at least three of your potential sources (two must be academic), and articulate your overall aims and interest.

The proposal will be submitted on Canvas in the discussion posts area. This will allow everyone to view each other's essay ideas and initial research, and will also allow online feedback in assigned pairs.

Draft 1 (25 points): 10/18, 10/25

The first draft is a launching point - think of it as a puzzle. It's unlikely that you'll get all the pieces together from one side to the next in order and without trying to put together pieces that don't fit. For an essay of this length, you won't even have all the

puzzle pieces you'll need at the start. I will check in on your first draft at two points. Each time I will score the drafts out of 25, and then average the two scores together.

10/18: To start, you may not yet have a completely written out draft. The first sessions of peer review focus on argument and source engagement. To receive productive feedback, you should have at least half of the paper drafted (approx. 1000 words) with several sections that showcase your argument and your sources. You should also indicate at minimum in outline form the shape the rest of the paper will take.

10/25: At this point, when peer review focuses on organization, you should have a complete draft to best allow for productive feedback. This draft should be approximately 2000 words with all sources discussed and cited, and formatted (it includes page numbers, your name, a title).

We will spend more than one class day in peer feedback.

Draft 2 (50 points): 10/28

I offer feedback on the second draft in Canvas Speedgrader. And we're still in the process of developing and refining ideas. Your second draft is assessed in two ways:

- **Revision of Draft 1 (25 points):** Submit your second draft as a clean copy and as a document combined with draft 1 (see Submission Guidelines sheet). I will look at the changes you've made and assess your engagement in revision across the draft, looking at both global and local changes (focusing on global).
- **Revision Letter (25 points):** I also want to hear from you about your revision process. What changes did you make or are in the process of making? Talk specifically about the most effective change you have made and the most significant change you plan to make. Also feel free to reflect on peer review or ask questions to focus my reading of your work.

Final (100 points): 11/10

- **Argument (25 points):** Is your work driven by a specific, debatable question that opens up multiple lines of thought (not simply a yes or no answer)? Do you articulate several relevant and important arguments contained within your overall project? Do you offer persuasive responses to the questions you ask?
- **Source Engagement (25 points):** How have you outlined the conversation you're participating in? Do you incorporate a range of sources? 4-6 academic sources? 2-3 primary sources? Do you both analyze the evidence and explain

how it supports the claims you make? Are the sources in conversation with each other and not only you?

- **Revision (20 points):** Submit your second draft as a clean copy and as a document combined with draft 2 (see Submission Guidelines sheet). I will look at the changes you've made and assess your engagement in revision across the draft, looking at both global and local changes (focusing on global).
- **Structure (15 points):** Does your organization allow you to build your argument across paragraphs, transitioning between ideas and making logical connections for your readers? Do you include an interesting introduction and compelling conclusion?
- **Care of Composition (15 points):** Are your sources accurately cited? Is the paper formatted clearly? Is there evidence of careful proofreading (largely absent of typos)?