

Parag Budhecha
Writing 20

Major Project II Assignment

Important Dates: Group Presentations on Thursday, March 3
First Draft Due Tuesday, March 8
Peer Critiques Due Thursday, March 10
Second Draft Due Tuesday, March 22

Length: 4-5 pages

The bulk of this project will be done in groups of three. Your group will research one of the following contemporary issues regarding higher education and report on it to the rest of the class. Each individual member will focus her or his attention on a single perspective within the group's topic. In addition, you will each complete a final paper.

The topics are:

- UNC freshman required reading selection in 2002, 2003
- Duke's distribution of Ipods to all freshmen, 2004
- Young Republicans' Bake Sale, 2003, 2004
- UNC instructor, Elyse Crystall, criticized for liberal bias, 2004

Groupwork: As you research your topic, you will see several different perspectives emerging, and each member will choose one of the perspectives to research. Some possibilities might be:

- University administration
- Faculty
- Students
- Parents
- Concerned public
- Conservative/Liberal viewpoints
- Legal issues
- Historical issues

Each group member must research at least three different sources on his/her particular perspective, and these must come from various genres. For instance, you can collect newspaper articles, magazine articles, internet postings, scholarly articles, etc.

The members will share their research with their group, so you will need to talk with your group about the articles you find, which you should include in your presentations, etc.

Each group will present its research to the class in a panel session. You must decide, as a group, how to present your material—the only requirement is that each member is responsible for an equal portion of the presentation.

Final Individual Paper: This assignment asks you to write a scholarly article about your topic. This means that you need to make an active claim about the implications of the issues involved on higher education. You will need to examine the various perspectives your group researched: on what commonplaces do they base their arguments? how do they establish ethos? etc. Also consider the motivations for and consequences of their viewpoints, how they communicated their views, whether this communication was productive or not, etc.

But your essay should **not** just be a report or an analysis of the perspectives you researched. You should use your analysis of the perspectives to support your discussion of the impact (of technology, such as iPods, for instance) on higher education. **Note:** you do not want your claim to “take sides,” but to advance a deeper understanding of the issues involved.

Your research will likely cover more information and related issues than you will be able to deal with in your paper. 4-5 pages is not a lot of space so you will also need to focus your argument to a specific aspect of the topic.

Purpose of the assignment: This assignment serves as a smaller-scale, practice run for your final research projects in this class. It also brings to light the multiple, diverse perspectives that exist in any given conflict or issue. It is important not only to recognize the variety of viewpoints, but also to examine the motivations and consequences of them. In this way, this project extends the work you did in Project I.

Final Note:

Our librarian, Emily Werrell, will be producing a handout to help you with your research for this project; she will post that handout to our blackboard site under “Course Document.” She will also include her contact information so you can easily reach her with your questions.