

Parag Budhecha
Writing 20

Major Project III Assignment

Important Dates: Conferences with me Monday & Tuesday, April 11 & 12 (no class on the 12th)
First Draft Due Thursday, April 14
Peer Critiques Due Tuesday, April 19
Second Draft Due Thursday, April 21
Third Draft Due Tuesday, May 3

Length: 7-10 pages

Number of sources: A minimum requirement of 7 sources, from at least two different genres.

This assignment asks you to write a scholarly research essay on a topic of your own choosing that is related to higher education. That is, in this project you must devise your own scholarly argument based on your research and analysis. Remember that a scholarly argument does more than merely report on an issue; it assesses the limitations of an idea, it considers the consequences and implications of an issue, it asks the “So what?” question....

The short writings are designed to lead you through the thinking and writing you will need to do during the research process: they ask you to brainstorm the possible directions your research could go, and to consider several questions/problems your research might focus on; they also help you to make use of and to analyze your sources, to recognize how your sources enter into a conversation with one another, and to establish your own voice within that dialogue.

Here are some possible topics:

- Political Correctness wars of the 90s
- Affirmative action—Michigan
- Athletics (No Title IX stuff)
- Conservative vs. Liberal critiques of higher education
- California public schools

Purpose of the assignment: Not surprisingly, this assignment asks you to use all the exercises and writing assignments, class discussions, and research and analysis strategies you have practiced this semester on a topic of your own choosing. We have been building our tools for analysis and our rhetorical understanding in order for you to make your own complex argument. These skills are necessary for any critical thinking, reading and writing you will do not only in your college careers, but also in your daily activities and future endeavors. This project also requires that you enter a scholarly dialogue. Your research grounds you in an ongoing conversation, and you add to that conversation in your own writing.