

Instructor: Tricker
ENGL 461: Intro to Theory

Theory Essay 1

Due Dates:

- Group 1: Sunday, 10/11 by 11:59pm (Canvas)
- Group 2: Sunday, 11/1 by 11:59pm (Canvas)

Length:

- 4 - 6 double-spaced pages, excluding Works Cited list (you must have 4 *full* pages minimum, do not exceed 6)

For this assignment, you will write a two-part essay combining explication of theory and a theory-informed interpretation of literature or other cultural artifact (e.g. film, television episode, game). In the first part, you will synthesize the work of 2 – 3 theorists we have read, thus far, articulating points of resonance between their arguments. In the second part, you will interpret your chosen text in a manner that applies elements of your chosen theorists' works. You may utilize the work of one theorist more than another, but your analysis should draw from more than one theoretical source, in addition to your own independent view on the material.

Your essay should follow a basic beginning-middle-end structure (introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion) and contain the following:

1. Carefully edited, error-free prose.
2. Correct MLA-style formatting (see next page).
3. A descriptive and/or creative title (choosing a title helps you express your main idea)
4. An introduction that identifies the theories you will compare/synthesize, as well as the text you will interpret while drawing on their key concepts. Provide any other additional literary/cultural/historical context necessary for properly orienting your reader to the subject matter. The introduction should be one or two paragraphs.
5. A specific thesis statement (two sentences), located at the end of the first or second paragraph, that
 - a. States your general point comparing the theories (e.g. how they can be read in a complementary way, how they approach related topics differently, how they can be combined)
 - b. States something about the text's meaning, how it communicates that meaning, and how the theories you've examined help us come to understand these things.
6. Body paragraphs in the first section (approximately 2 to 2.5 pages) that
 - a. Begin with sentences establishing an organizing area of discussion.
 - b. Quote words or phrases from the theoretical texts. Do not over-quote. Only quote on words/phrases on which you will specifically comment.
 - c. Concluding sentences that transition to a new point of discussion (in the next paragraph).
7. Body paragraphs in the second section (approximately 2.5 to 3 pages) that
 - a. Begin with sentences establishing an organizing area of discussion.
 - b. Quote phrases from the literary work or cultural artifact under analysis. These quotations should be logically introduced and followed up with thoughtful interpretations of their meaning. Do not over-quote. Only quote words/phrases on which you will specifically comment. If working with a film, "quote" a scene by describing its specific details you want to discuss.
 - c. Incorporate literary and/or theoretical terms where appropriate. If you use a complex technical term from theory, be sure to define the term in the essay or in a footnote. Where possible, refer back to the earlier section of the essay when a portion of the literary work/text clarifies or exemplifies something from the theoretical material.

- d. Concluding sentences that transition to a new point of discussion (in the next paragraph).
8. A conclusion that provides *metacommentary*: this means using clarifying language that helps the reader understand the exact scope of your argument (i.e. what you're saying, what you're not saying).
9. An MLA-style works cited page that includes citation information for the selected text (see the Purdue OWL).

MLA Style and Citation:

For this essay assignment and all subsequent written assignments in this course, you should follow the formatting conventions of the Modern Language Association (MLA). You can find a useful guide about these conventions at Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) website:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

Other helpful pages on the OWL's MLA guide:

General format:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html

In-text citation (how to format quotations from the text):

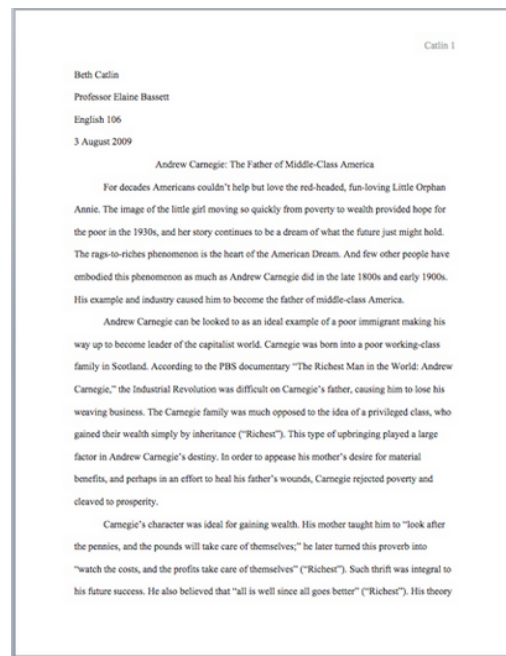
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

The Works Cited page:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_basic_format.html

For examples of what the first page and works cited page should look like, see the next page.

The first page of your essay should look like the one below. Subsequent pages will not include the top left heading info (name, professor's name, course number, and submission date). It will include page numbers in the top right corner, however.



The Works Cited page should look like the document below (taken from the OWL website). Note that this Works Cited list gets its own page with a title and that it uses *hanging indentation* (the first line is formatted to the far left margin, the following lines are indented) and that the items are arranged in alphabetical order.

- Works Cited
- Dean, Cornelia. "Executive on a Mission: Saving the Planet." *The New York Times*, 22 May 2007.
www.nytimes.com/2007/05/22/science/earth/22ander.html?_r=0. Accessed 29 May 2019.
- Ebert, Roger. Review of *An Inconvenient Truth*, directed by Davis Guggenheim. *Ebert Digital LLC*, 1 June 2006.
www.rogerebert.com/reviews/an-inconvenient-truth-2006. Accessed 15 June 2019.
- Gowdy, John. "Avoiding Self-organized Extinction: Toward a Co-evolutionary Economics of Sustainability." *International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2007, pp. 27-36.
- Harris, Rob, and Andrew C. Revkin. "Clinton on Climate Change." *The New York Times*, 17 May 2007.
www.nytimes.com/video/world/americas/1194817109438/clinton-on-climate-change.html. Accessed 29 July 2016.
- An Inconvenient Truth*. Directed by Davis Guggenheim, Paramount, 2006.
- Leroux, Marcel. *Global Warming: Myth or Reality?: The Erring Ways of Climatology*. Springer, 2005.
- Milken, Michael, et al. "On Global Warming and Financial Imbalances." *New Perspectives Quarterly*, vol. 23, no. 4, 2006, p. 63.
- Nordhaus, William D. "After Kyoto: Alternative Mechanisms to Control Global Warming." *American Economic Review*, vol. 96, no. 2, 2006, pp. 31-34.
- . "Global Warming Economics." *Science*, vol. 294, no. 5545, 9 Nov. 2001, pp. 1283-84, DOI: 10.1126/science.1065007.
- Regas, Diane. "Three Key Energy Policies That Can Help Us Turn the Corner on Climate." *Environmental Defense Fund*, 1 June 2016, www.edf.org/blog/2016/06/01/3-key-energy-policies-can-help-us-turn-corner-climate. Accessed 19 July 2016.
- Revkin, Andrew C. "Clinton on Climate Change." *The New York Times*, 17 May 2007, www.nytimes.com/video/world/americas/1194817109438/clinton-on-climate-change.html. Accessed 29 July 2016.
- Shulte, Bret. "Putting a Price on Pollution." *US News & World Report*, vol. 142, no. 17, 14 May 2007, p. 37.
Ebsco, Access no: 24984616.
- Uzawa, Hirofumi. *Economic Theory and Global Warming*. Cambridge UP, 2003.