

English 51/Fall 2018/Extra Credit

Researching Current Events

In this extra credit assignment, you should research a current news event and write a research paper that does the following:

- Defines and explains the event, using current news articles
- Offers an opinion on the event
- Defends why your opinion on the event is correct
- Utilizes at least three sources to support your point

This research paper should have the following characteristics of any academic essay:

- An introduction with a persuasive thesis
- Organized paragraphs that contain evidence from both your own reasoning and your sources
- A conclusion that restates the thesis
- A Works Cited Page

Here are some tips and guidelines as you undertake this assignment:

- This should be a current news event, and not an "issue" (Although you will connect it to a larger issue. See bullet point below.) Your topic should be taken from an actual story that is in the news now. (The California Wildfires is one example, or the caravan of immigrants at the Tijuana border, or the recent mall shooting in Alabama). In general, you should not choose anything that is more than one month old. If you have any questions about this, see me.
- The news event you choose should be something you can have an opinion about. Your opinion about this needs to be clear right away in the essay. This essay should NOT be a summary of the event.
- You need to connect the event you choose to a larger issue in society. For example, the caravan is part of a larger immigration problem, or the mall shooting is related to police brutality.
- This essay should be at least THREE FULL PAGES.

Due: 12/10 to Canvas

Point Opportunity: This can earn you up to 50 points extra credit. Depending on your level of effort, you may receive anywhere from 0-50 points. This is NOT graded on an A-F scale, meaning that if you receive "25" points, it does not mean that you "failed" the assignment, but that you put, in my estimation, 25 points of effort into the assignment.