

English 107: The Change Project **Due: Jan. 18**

Length: 500-750 Words.

The Challenge: this assignment will challenge you to stake out your position on an issue that you feel members of your generation should be thinking about or working to change. Your audience for this project is your classmates, and you will want to develop and support a claim that tells them why and how the issue should be addressed. In other words, you have to convince us that we should care about your issue and that we should think about and act on your issue in a particular way.

Choosing a Topic: you will want to take the time to choose a topic that you would like to know more about and that you might possibly like to research over the course of the semester. As you choose a topic, I would encourage you to think beyond moral or political issues, such as abortion, that are often discussed in black and white terms. These issues are not only too personal, but also will polarize your audience and end conversations rather than beginning them. Instead, I encourage you to introduce us to an issue or conversation that we might not have thought about in great depth, an issue that might impact your classmates' daily lives, or an issue that is particularly important to your generation. Help us understand why your generation should work to change or address it.

Choosing a Genre: you have several choices regarding the genre you will use for your project. You may choose from the following:

1. *Polemic:* a 800 word (minimum) essay that strongly presents your perspective and argues that another perspective is wrong. Polemics are often blunt and forceful in tone, but show a clear understanding of their audience by not using language, ideas, or stereotypes that might alienate them. If you choose this option, you will want to advance your argument forcefully but respectfully.
2. *Opinion-Editorial for Kaleidoscope:* a 800 word (minimum) opinion editorial that addresses the UAB student body and faculty. Opinion editorials introduce the issue and establish its importance, develop a clear thesis or perspective about the issue, and support this thesis with strong supporting arguments. For this option, you will want to think about how your ideas might interest and engage the readership of Kaleidoscope, the UAB student newspaper.
3. *A Letter to Your Classmates:* a 800 word (minimum) letter that is tailored to your classmates and that presents your perspective on the issue and what you feel your classmates should do in response to your perspective or argument about the issue. You will need to present your classmates with a clear thesis and supporting arguments, but also think critically about the types of rhetorical strategies that will persuade them.