

RWS 305W/Short Paper #2/Hedges

Chris Hedges, in the excerpt assigned from his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Empire of Illusion*, argues that we, as a society, have essentially allowed ourselves to be 'dumbed down' to the point of stupid; what factors does he attribute this to; what, ultimately, are the results; and what examples of this do you see in the world around you? Finally, what, if anything, can be done about it? Explain your answer in a thoughtful and thorough 2-3 page (typed, double-spaced, MLA-formatted) essay, using quotes and examples from your own experiences and observations for support. Any questions?

Grades will be determined using the following criteria: Does your paper directly address the assignment's requirements? Does your writing conform to the general guidelines of the English language? Is it organized in a logical and appropriate manner? Please attach your draft to the final copy (no draft, no 'A,' no exceptions), and remember that grades go down a 'notch' for each day papers are late.

This assignment is designed to address the following DRWS Learning Goals: Respond effectively in writing to issues and arguments; analyze the details; apply critical reading strategies; use writing as a way to learn; develop successful, flexible strategies for generating, revising, and editing texts; understand the collaborative and social aspects of the writing process; critique their own and others' texts; effectively integrate sources; practice appropriate means of documenting sources; sustain reasonable correctness in grammar and mechanics, amongst others.