

Research Project

Overview: select one of the options below as a focus for your research project. Your final draft must be a minimum of **1200 words** following **MLA essay format**. A minimum of **5 secondary sources** must be cited properly within the paper and on a Works Cited page (the latter does not contribute to word count). *Option 2 is the exception; see below.* Sources must be from reputable, college-level material. General sources like *Dictionary.com*, *eHow*, *about.com*, or encyclopedias are not appropriate sources as they lack substance for a college-level paper, and will not count toward your 5 source total.

Option 1: Investigative Essay Expansion

What Is It?

Continue the work from your Investigative Essay. You may enact phase 2 of the experiment (i.e. add another day or week to the previous experiment) or write in more detail about your findings from the original experiment in the Investigative Essay. In this paper, you will incorporate more research sources to support your discussion of what we learn from examining this particular issue.

Synthesis of the secondary research with your own findings is critical to this option. You must use at least 4 NEW sources, although 1 source may be the same as in your Investigative Essay.

Option 2: Visual Argument

What Is It?

This option incorporates both a written and a visual argument, in the form of a photoessay that will accompany the text. First, consider an environmental issue of importance to you—note how many different topics Beavan relates to environmental concerns in his book as you deliberate. Next, set out to capture images that tell the story of this issue in some way. One example is documenting food waste by taking pictures of places where you encounter this. No particular skills or photography equipment are needed—a camera phone will work fine.

However, these must be pictures you have taken during the course of this project.

Once you have documented this issue with pictures, write an essay to accompany the photos. In this essay, explore how your photos help illustrate this problem (analysis will be useful here) and offer secondary research to support your discussion. A minimum of 4 secondary sources are required in this essay for this option. Your goal is to use words and images to convince your readers to see the issue the same way you do.

The photoessay should be separate from the text. You may paste the photos into pages at the end of your essay, or submit a separate file (Powerpoint, SlideShare, etc.) with the photoessay along with the text submission.

Option 3: Persuasive Proposal

What Is It?

Investigate an environmental issue facing a particular community and write a persuasive proposal about your recommended solution to that problem. This may be a problem at the college or city level; keep your scope focused here, rather than trying to solve national/global environmental problems. Consider the themes brought forth in *No Impact Man* and the many issues Beavan ties to environmental concerns. The research you include can talk about the problem from a national or global perspective. Your job will be to show how this supports your proposal on the local level.

Part of your task is to determine an audience to whom you will address this proposal, dependent on the community involved (e.g. UT administration, City Council).

Minimum Requirements for All Options:

- ✓ Effective use of ethos, pathos, logos to engage your audience
- ✓ New insight into the issue (creative, critical thinking)
- ✓ Avoidance of logical fallacies: no quick or oversimplified solutions, bandwagon appeals or hasty generalizations, etc.
- ✓ Awareness of rhetorical audience and purpose evident in the final draft
- ✓ Thoughtful integration of research sources to support your position, including correct MLA in-text citations **and** a Works Cited page. All five sources must be cited in text at least once and cited on the accompanying Works Cited page (4 sources for Option 2).
- ✓ Minimum 1200 words for final draft excluding Works Cited page

Deadlines:

- Rough draft and revised rough draft due Week 15 for class workshops
- **Final draft due Friday, 12/12 by 11:59 PM via Safe Assign dropbox.**
- Due to the length of time devoted in class to this writing and the end-of-semester deadline, the research project paper is NOT eligible for the revision option. Please make sure your final draft meets all minimum requirements before submission.