

Topic:

You will be expected to do the following:

1. Find a song that contains a logical fallacy (that is able to be researched).
2. Identify the logical fallacy and create a strategy/topic that you will research.
3. Research that topic.
4. Write a rebuttal (argument) for the claim the song makes.

FOR EXAMPLE:

John Lennon's "Imagine"

Logical Fallacy: Suggests that the world would be a better place without capitalism.

Rebuttal: This is a hasty generalization because Mr. Lennon assumes that capitalism is what makes the world a bad place. While it can promote greed, capitalism promotes a better quality of life.

Research: I would study the negative impacts of capitalism AND other economic models (communism, socialism, etc).

Paper: I would then write what I've learned to show what Mr. Lennon left out of his song. I would compare what capitalism has to offer with the offerings of other models.

Sources

You will use four to six sources in your essay. No more than two of these sources can be electronic sources. You can use up to three electronic sources, but all of them need to be from the following: Discovering Collection, Alabama Virtual Library, and Questia. You may not use any other electronic databased or sources.

Our school library is an excellent place to do research for this project, but it is not the only place. Civic libraries, such as Vestavia, Hoover, and Birmingham, as well as University libraries (UAB, Samford, etc.) are great places to do your research.

The Outline

As part of your assignment, you will create a sentence outline in parallel form for this essay.

MLA Style

Please follow all aspects (heading, margins, headers, works cited page, parenthetical documentation, etc.) of MLA style when writing this essay. If you are not sure about some aspect of MLA style, please consult the latest edition of The MLA Handbook. If you are still confused after doing so, please ask me. Between the two of us, I'm sure we can solve your problem.

Grading

You will receive a grade for each of the four steps that you will turn in (preliminary bibliography, thesis/topic outline in parallel form, rough draft, and final copy). All steps must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day that it is due. No step may be turned in until you have successfully completed the previous step.

Editing

You will have one in-class peer editing session after I give you back your rough drafts. Please note, I will not correct your rough drafts. I will check them.

Also, you may want to refer to the "Research" section of Diana Hacker's *A Pocket Style Manual*, pp. 92-102.

Format

Follow the MLA format contained in *A Pocket Style Manual* by Diana Hacker. Use the orange-coded MLA section of this book, pp. 104-154.

Items due

1. Annotated bibliography – due Friday, February 3, 2012 (<http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill28.htm>; for help on writing an annotated bibliography in MLA format). This may be handwritten or typed and is due at the end of the class period. I will read over them over the weekend and return to you on Monday.
2. Thesis statement – due Tuesday, February 7th
3. Photocopied sources – due Wednesday, February 8th
4. Sentence outline – due Friday, February 10th
5. Rough draft – due Thursday, February 16th
6. Final copy – due Tuesday, February 28th

All above items will be turned in with the final paper and will become property of the VHHS English department.

We will spend January 30th –February 3rd in the library for your research. You may need to spend time at another library or at home researching as well.

Grading

1. Annotated bibliography – 25 points
2. Thesis statement – 25 points
3. Photocopied sources – 40 points
4. Sentence outline – 30 points
5. Rough draft – 40 points
6. Final copy* – 200 points

*The final copy will be graded for format, content, documentation, and words cited.