

English 1
C. S. Wyatt

Writing Prompt #3: ***Issue in My Field Portrayed in Arts or Media***

Proposal Due: Mar. 16
First Draft Due: Mar. 23

Peer Editing: Mar. 30 & Apr. 4
Final Due Online: Apr. 6

The third paper we will compose for English 1 is a **serious academic argument**. An argument requires that you **acknowledge differing views**, clearly state **biases**, and develop a clear **value proposition** based on **evidence**. This paper will require that you research differing views and include them in your paper. However, you must develop a conclusion that reflects your **judgment** and position in the academy.

Your task:

Select an issue facing the arts **or** an issue involving the media. You are encouraged to develop a topic ***relating to your chosen field of study***.

You must explain this issue, why it is important, and argue for your proposed judgment. In the course of your argument, you must include and **refute** or **concur** with “expert opinions” in the field. Paper proposals must indicate the issue you intend to explore and why you believe the issue is important to address. Sample issues might include:

- Censorship of the arts or of the media. What can be expressed when and where?
- Should we ever control or monitor the Internet, e-mail, and Web sites?
- Should tax money support public broadcasting? The fine arts, such as museums?
- Is digital art authentic art? What makes something “new” enough to be artistic?

If you select an issue in the media related to your field of study, you must explain how the arts/media are affecting your field. What is the **specific challenge** or **tension** between the media and its representations of or appeals to your field? You must still present alternative views and reach a **supported judgment**.

This paper is going to be a “strict” implementation of MLA/APA style, depending on your choice of a scientific or humanities focus. Unlike your first two papers, you should try to avoid the use of “I” and “you” in this project. You need to sound confident and academic in this paper. Only if you use an ethnographic approach should “I” become part of the overall text.

Consult earlier handouts for the structure and nature of an academic argument. This paper must present a definite conclusion, supporting your initial thesis.

Note: Papers must be at least **six full** pages, but no more than **ten** pages. They should be double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in a 12-point font. You are required to offer at least **five** outside sources for this paper. Factual evidence must be cited, as must any outside opinions. A **bibliography** is mandatory.