

English 80: Final Project

Background and Overview:

This semester, we have looked at a variety of problems caused by American style capitalism and driven by consumerism. These problems include: outsourcing of labor and abuse of workers both in the production and distribution of stuff and food; the impacts of industrial agriculture; the problems created by a for-profit healthcare system; and the environmental impacts associated with many of these other issues. As Annie Leonard claims, these problems cannot be viewed in isolation and as soon as you start investigating one issue, you are led to a whole host of other related issues.

For your final project in English 80, you will research a problem caused by consumerism or American capitalism that systems thinking has caused you to recognize. This could be a deeper exploration of issues that we already discussed in class, or a new investigation of a different problem of which you became aware because of the readings and/or videos in this course.

his project is primarily a research project. It has several components and requirements, all of which will culminate in your Final Presentation and Essay 3. I have provided a list of potential topics and some suggestions for film sources you could consult at the end of this project overview.

You may work on certain parts of this project in a small group of no more than three students. No exceptions for group size! More details on group work below.

Research Requirements:

- 1) You will watch a full-length documentary film about your topic. Films must be feature-length (so around 90 minutes long). No Youtube clips! I have provided a list of potential films that you could watch. Many documentary films are available on Netflix or Amazon for rental or purchase. You may also find another documentary of your choosing, so you should not feel limited by my list. (YOU MAY NOT WATCH A FILM WE ALREADY WATCHED IN CLASS!!)
- 2) You will research 9 additional sources about your topic. These can be books, videos, articles, and/or films related to your topic and should be scholarly sources (no Wikipedia sources!).
 - 1) NO MORE THAN 3 OF YOUR 9 SOURCES MAY BE THINGS WE ALREADY READ IN CLASS!! INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS OF BOOKS DO NOT COUNT AS MULTIPLE SOURCES. YOU MAY ONLY INCLUDE THE ENTIRE BOOK IN YOUR SOURCE LIST.
 - 2) NO MORE THAN 3 OF YOUR SOURCES MAY BE FILMS OR VIDEOS.
- 3) You will research one or more nonprofit organizations that are dedicated to addressing the problem you have identified.
- 4) You will research the appropriate state and/or national governmental agencies or committees dedicated to researching, discussing, regulating and/or solving your problem.

Project Requirements:

- 1) You will create an Annotated Bibliography of at least 10 sources: 1 documentary film and 9 other sources. No more than 3 of the remaining 9 sources may be things that we read together as a class and no more than

3 may be films or videos. These should be sources that someone could consult if she wanted to learn more about your topic. Sources should be chosen based on the quality of the information they provide, clarity of argument, and relationship to your project topic.

2) You will create an informational pamphlet** to:

- 1) Inform your audience about your issue by providing facts, statistics, data and other research to outline its severity;
- 2) Suggest ways that individuals can help solve the problem by providing a list of actions that your audience could undertake;
- 3) Provide information on at least one nonprofit organization that an individual can contact to get involved in solving the problem. Your pamphlet or video should include the nonprofit's name, Mission Statement (which can be found on each nonprofit's website) and contact information for the nonprofit (such as a phone number to call and/or a website to visit). You should also provide information on how a person could become involved with or help out the nonprofit (there is usually a page dedicated to this on each nonprofit's website);
- 4) Provide information on the appropriate governmental agency or committee that could be contacted to find further information about your issue or to call or write to about your concerns. Your pamphlet should indicate the name of the agency or committee and any important contacts from that agency/committee. This could include providing a website URL, phone number and contact name, and/or address. We will discuss how one might go about researching this information in class.

**Please note that your pamphlet must be a trifold, type written document and contain images. We will go over suggestions of how to organize your pamphlet in class. I have also uploaded templates that you may use to complete your pamphlet. You may print in black and white or color. If you have problems printing, or would like to print in color but do not have access to a color printer, you can send it to me ahead of time and I will print it for you. (Please note that I will need your completed document 3 days before your presentation to give me time to print it.)

3) You will present your issue to the class in a 5-10 minute presentation. Your presentation may be done live, or you may choose to create a video to present your information to your classmates. The presentation must:

- 1) Inform your audience about your issue by providing facts, statistics, data and/or other research to outline its severity;
- 2) Suggest solutions that individuals, corporations and/or the government could pursue to help end the problem;
- 3) Introduce your classmates to the nonprofit you researched and how they could get involved with the organization;
- 4) Tell your classmates what you learned about appropriate governmental agencies to contact;
- 5) Provide a brief description/introduction to the documentary film you watched. (You may also choose to share a short segment of the documentary you watched. Please limit clips to no more than 3 minutes in length.);
- 6) Make use of visual aids.

4) The final part of your project is the composition of Essay 3. Please see the Essay 3 prompt and guidelines for further requirements.

Group Work

If you choose to work in a group, you may have no more than 3 members in your group (no exceptions!). You may conduct your research with your group, create the pamphlet with your group, and make your presentation or video with your group. However, your Annotated Bibliography and Essay 3 must be entirely your own work. Annotated Bibliographies or essays that are too similar to you group mates' will result in a severe loss of points on the assignment and could result in a failing grade on the assignment. Be safe, and do your writing on your own to avoid being penalized!

Suggested Documentaries

Below is a list of documentaries that you may choose to watch as part of this project. While I have indicated where I found each documentary, you may be able to find them elsewhere. Most of the documentaries on Amazon can be rented for a few dollars or purchased as a digital download. You can also purchase the DVD of many of these films. You may also choose to find another documentary through your own research. If you aren't sure that the documentary you want to watch fits the scope of our project, let me know and we can chat about it.

Food Documentaries

Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret. Directed by Kip Anderson and Keegan Kuhn. (Netflix)

Food Chains: The Revolution in America's Fields. Directed by Sanjay Rawal. (Amazon)

A Meaty Issue. Directed by Jute Pinzier and Michael Richter. (Amazon)

Just Eat It: A Food Waste Story. Directed by Grant Baldwin. (Amazon)

Of the Land. Directed by Bryan Law. (Amazon)

Global Waste: The Scandal of Food Waste. Directed by Olivier Lemaire. (Netflix)

Pollan, Michael. *In Defense of Food*. Directed by Michael Schwartz. (Netflix)

Sustainable. Directed by Matt Wechsler. (Amazon)

Fed Up. (Netflix)

Hungry for Change. (Netflix)

Super Size Me. (Netflix)

Environmental and Pollution Documentaries

Drying for Freedom. Directed by Steven Lake. (Amazon)

Time to Choose. Directed by Charles Ferguson. (Amazon)

Chemical. Directed by Andrew Nisker. (Amazon)

Gore, Al. *An Inconvenient Truth*. Directed by David Guggenheim. (Amazon)

Gas Land. Directed by Josh Fox. (Amazon)

The Human Experiment. (Netflix)

Consumerism, Economic and Sustainability Documentaries

Consumed: Inside the Belly of the Beast. Directed by Richard Heap. (Amazon)

Breath of Life. Directed by Susan Kucera. (Amazon)

Real Value. Directed by Jesse Borkowski. (Amazon)
97% Owned: Why Money Rules the World. Directed by Michael Oswald. (Amazon)
Capitalism: A Love Story. Directed by Michael Moore. (Amazon)
Noam Chomsky. *Requiem for the American Dream*. (Amazon)
Freakonomics. (Amazon)
Citizen Koch. (Amazon)
We're Not Broke. (Amazon)
Obey. <http://thenotepasser.com/blog/2015/8/4/documentaries>
Klein, Naomi. *The Shock Doctrine*. (Amazon)
The Greatest Movie Ever Sold. (Amazon)

Healthcare Documentaries

American Addict. Directed by Sasha Knezev. (Amazon)
The Big Lie: American Addict 2. Directed by Sasha Knezev. (Amazon)
Prescription Thugs. Directed by Chris Bell. (Netflix)

Worker Issues

The True Cost. Directed by Andrew Morgan. (Netflix)
Apple's Broken Promises. http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2e1jkd_apples-broken-promises_news
Klein, Naomi. *The Take: Occupy, Resist, Produce*. (Amazon)
Bananas: On Trial for Malice. (Amazon)

Essay 3 Guidelines

As you know, your final essay will be based on the research that you are doing for your final project. You will have amassed a total of 10 sources that are related to your final research topic, but you will not be required to use all of these sources in your final essay.

Your final essay will explore the topic related to consumerism that you chose to research for your final project. It will accomplish the following:

- 1) Your essay should outline the severity of your problem by providing evidence of its effects;
- 2) Your essay should clearly identify how the problem is tied to or related to consumerism;
- 3) Your essay should provide research-based solutions that individuals, corporations, and/or governments can use to end or slow the effects of the problem. While you could speculate about what *might* work, your focus should be on what experts in the field say *will* work or solutions that are already being put into practice. All of your essays up to now have asked you to speculate about solutions in your conclusion, but now you will need to actually research what is being done, what has been done or what experts are suggesting should be done to solve the problem.

Requirements

- 1) Your essay should be 5-7 pages in length (not including the Works Cited page).
- 2) Your essay should be in MLA format with a proper Works Cited list and citations throughout.
- 3) Your essay must make use of a minimum of 5 sources (of the 10 that you researched for your project).
- 4) Your essay should make use of paraphrase, direct quotation and summary, all with appropriate in text citations.
- 5) Body paragraphs should contain at least two pieces of evidence with appropriate citations.
- 6) Evidence should be incorporated in a variety of styles (different types of quote integration, paraphrase and/or summary) to add fluidity and interest to your writing.
- 7) Your essay should be proof read and free from grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and awkward sentences.

Due Dates:

Tuesday 5/23: Annotated Bibliography with 4 sources for your final project.

Thursday 5/25: Annotated Bibliography with 3 additional sources for your final project

—E3 introduction + 1 body paragraph

Friday 5/26: E3 Complete draft (bring 3 copies)

Tuesday 5/30 and Thursday 6/1: Final Presentations

Thursday 6/8: Final 8am-10:30am

—Final Presentations (continued if necessary)

—E3 Final Draft due (Please bring a hard copy. Because I will not see you again, I don't want to risk technology problems that may hinder your ability to turn in the essay.)

—E3 PEE Chart Due

—E3 Checklist Due