

Paper #3

Speculating About the Causes of a Social Problem

Purpose: To compose a short essay, research based essay examining the causes of the social issue identified in Paper #2.

Length: 1000 words minimum (does not include work cited list). Please note that this is a bare minimum length for this assignment and applies to both the complete first draft and the final draft. I will not accept a submission that does not meet this bare minimum requirement. I strongly encourage you to compose a first draft that substantially exceeds this minimum. The best final essays emerge from a process that involves some paring down of a complete first draft. This minimum assumes that you will not write an intro for this section beyond a thesis statement. If you do decide to write an extended intro, the paper minimum rises to 1250 words.

Due Dates: February 18, full-length draft; February 20, Peer Critique; February 23, Final Draft.

Required Format: MLA (I will not accept incorrectly formatted papers). Please see the sample MLA formatted paper available on the web at the following address:
<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/modeldocs/humanities.htm>

Portfolio: You will submit all invention, research, planning, peer critique, and drafting activities in your portfolio on the final due date. You will also email a final draft to me before the class period on the due date (so bring the paper to class on a disk).

Research Documentation: You must complete a “Works Cited” list for all sources used and correctly cite and quote, summarize, or paraphrase those sources in your essay. In your portfolio binder, you must include printouts or copies of all specific pages, passages, quotes, statistics, etc. used from your sources. You must also highlight the sections or paragraphs that you used from these source pages. Next to each highlighted passage, please write the page number from your paper for the page that the highlighted quote appears on. Your work cited list need not include annotations.

Grading Criteria

- 1) a clear, concise thesis identifying the causes of the social problem identified in paper #2
- 2) plausible causes backed by an analysis of research done on the issue
- 3) a logical sequence of causes that reflects the logic and sequence of your thesis (see *SMG* 434)
- 4) convincing support for your analysis of each cause
- 5) a consideration of reader’s objections and alternative causes
- 6) essay and paragraph organization,
- 7) sentence style and word choice,
- 8) grammar, punctuation, spelling

Conferences: I am not requiring conferences for this paper, but I am available during office hours from 12:30-3:00 on M/W/F. I encourage you to discuss any questions with me or run sample sentences or paragraphs by me for feedback.

Penalties: I apply a 10% penalty for each class day that a final draft is late. I will deduct 10% for each writing process activity that is not completed and submitted in your portfolio. I will not accept for credit any draft that does not reach the minimum word count.