

CWI Task for Graduation Portfolio: “It’s My World”

You will be writing a reflective essay on an international issue of your choosing. The issue must be a substantial issue and it must be pre-approved before you start writing your essay. Think of this assignment as an enlarged current event using multiple articles to help better understand one issue.

Your first decision is to decide what topic you would like to read and write about. Use your text for ideas. Think about the topics we have already covered and select a country or an area of the world that interests you. You may also look at topics or areas of the world we have not yet covered. While it has to be a pre-approved topic, you have a great deal of latitude in selecting your topic.

Next, you must read, summarize and analyze the articles. You may want to use the graphic organizer. This is what you have been doing for each of the current event assignments in class but now you are using multiple articles to help you better understand one issue.

Now it is time to write: first you want to tell the reader why you selected the topic and why it is an important topic. Avoid writing vague statements such as “I found this topic interesting” or “This is a big issue.” If you use these phrases you must go on and tell the reader why the topic is of interest or why it is a big issue. Don’t leave your reader wondering.

You want to summarize the issue or topic using your background information and the articles. You may quote from the articles but do so sparingly...the reader wants to read your words. What new insights did you gain from the articles? To do this you should select articles from a variety of sources...don’t use just NYT or BBC or CNN.

Finally, propose a solution or resolution to the issue. This requires you to think deeply about the topic and come up with your ideas about possible solutions.

Schedule:

1. Task prompt, rubric and directions distributed on November 27 and 28
2. Approval of topic by December 4
3. Time in the library for research or writing on Dec. 5 for G period; time in the library for periods A, B and E on Dec. 6
4. Dec. 12 all classes will have time in the library for writing
5. Dec. 17 periods A, B and E finish and upload to TieNet; Dec. 18 G period finish and upload
6. Students are responsible for uploading to their portfolios and handing in a hard copy with the rubric attached; students with extended time have to Dec. 21 to upload and turn in hard copy
7. This task will count as an in class 50 point assignment as well as a portfolio task

“Thinking means concentrating on one thing long enough to develop an idea about it. It’s only by concentrating, sticking to the question, being patient, letting all parts of my mind come into play, that I arrive at an original idea.” William Deresiewicz