



## CRITICAL THINKING & INFORMATION LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

### *English 201: James Torrence*

### *Essay #3 Instructions*

*Your assignment (2 pages + bibliography + worksheets) must be emailed by the deadline in your syllabus.*

This week you'll continue researching and writing about the same country. Our fourth visit to the library will include tutorials on how to conduct **efficient** web searches and how to **assess** whatever websites we access. For your third essay, which will be **analytical or persuasive** in nature, I want you to restrict your research, if possible, to **Internet** sources.

If your thesis changes in the course of writing this one, that's fine. Just make sure that the essay has a clear thesis and a logical organizational framework.

**Area of focus: What are the challenges your nation will potentially face in the next ten to twenty years, and how will those changes be avoided or overcome?**

Again, please remember that although this is a research exercise, your opinion and critical insight are still necessary components of a successful essay. After familiarizing yourself with the websites you choose, use your own insights, ideas, and imagination to devise your own opinion. Then use the sources as support for your point of view. If your sources disagree with each other, then pick a side or develop a third perspective of your own. In other words, merely handing me a list of names, dates and places will not do. I want you to further develop your own views in this essay and *use* the sources, not be used by them.

I want you to use *at least three sources* again, but this time they have to be specific *types* of websites, from specific domains. One should be an educational resource, one governmental, and one private. **Evaluate them in this order in response to the worksheet below. Then paste all three of your evaluations into the bottom of your essay #3 file, immediately after the bibliography. The worksheet is worth 10% of this assignment.**

Using MLA standard in-text citation, document *everything* that is not common knowledge or your own idea. Attach a bibliography, and model the entries after the examples in Hacker (Section "M").

Finally, in terms of grading, please take another look at the format/grading criteria handout, which you received in class.

*This essay is worth 10% of your grade for this course.*

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### Website Evaluation Worksheet

Complete this worksheet and paste it after the bibliography of assignment #3.

**#1. Name of educational site:**

URL of site: http://

Who created the site?

Can you tell if the information is accurate, or has been verified by an editor? How?

Are the site's sources of information fully documented?

Are the goals of the person(s) or organization(s) presenting the material clearly stated? What are those goals?

Does the information seem biased, or is it logical and based on verifiable facts? Explain your answer.

Is the page current? When was it written? When was it last revised? Do links to other pages work?

Who is the intended audience of this web page? How do you know?

Taking into account all the previous questions and any other data you may have collected, assign this website a grade.

**#2 Name of governmental site:**

URL of site: http://

Who created the site?

Can you tell if the information is accurate, or has been verified by an editor? How?

Are the site's sources of information fully documented?

Are the goals of the person(s) or organization(s) presenting the material clearly stated? What are those goals?

Does the information seem biased, or is it logical and based on verifiable facts? Explain your answer.

Is the page current? When was it written? When was it last revised? Do links to other pages work?

Who is the intended audience of this web page? How do you know?

Taking into account all the previous questions and any other data you may have collected, assign this website a grade.

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**#3 Name of private site:**

URL of site: http://

Who created the site?

Can you tell if the information is accurate, or has been verified by an editor? How?

Are the site's sources of information fully documented?

Are the goals of the person(s) or organization(s) presenting the material clearly stated? What are those goals?

Does the information seem biased, or is it logical and based on verifiable facts? Explain your answer.

Is the page current? When was it written? When was it last revised? Do links to other pages work?

Who is the intended audience of this web page? How do you know?

Taking into account all the previous questions and any other data you may have collected, assign this website a grade.



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