

English 102

Meg Thompson, ENGL 102, Fall 2006, Argument and Research

Name: Meg Thompson

Office Hours: MWF 12:30-1:20

Office: Stansbury 156

Email: mthomp22@mix.wvu.edu

Phone: 293-3107

Mailbox: Stansbury 231

English 102: Argument and Research

MWF 1:30-2:20, Section 009, STA 46C

MWF 2:30-3:20, Section 043, STA 46

Welcome

English 102 focuses on argument and research. It will challenge you to think of arguments, and, just as important, the counter-argument. We will also discuss how issues have changed and ways to find common ground with these contemporary issues. We will learn effective researching strategies. Subtopics will allude to the inevitability of human drama.

Texts

- Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing*. 1st ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006.
- Lunsford, Andrea. *The Everyday Writer*. 3rd ed. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2005.
- Undergraduate Writing Committee. *Joining Academic Conversations: English 102*. 12th ed. Littleton, MA: Tapestry Press, 2004-2005.

Assignment Overview/ Grade Breakdown

- Argument/Counter-Argument paper (15 % of your grade, 4-5 pages)
- Finding Common Ground paper: (15% of your grade, 3-4 pages)
- Annotated Bibliography (20% of your grade, an introduction plus 6 sources)
- Research paper (30% of your grade, 6-8 pages)

You will also be graded on your class participation; this will be 20% of your grade. In order to receive a good participation grade, you must do more than show up. I expect, and look forward to, your thoughtful contributions to class discussions, your researched debates, your effective presentations.

Absence/Tardiness Policy

You are allowed three absences. On your fourth absence, your grade will be compromised as much as one full letter, and on your sixth absence, according to policy you will fail the course. Please use your absences wisely, as excuses are not accepted. If you do have to miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any handouts or assignments you may miss. If you are worried about meeting a deadline or missing a class, make sure you talk with me in advance.

If you are not here when I take attendance, you are considered tardy. This applies if you miss one minute of class or twenty. Three bouts of tardiness counts as one absence. Students should not have to wait for other students who are late, and I should not have to repeat myself when the stragglers arrive.

Conferences

Several times throughout the course, class will be cancelled for individual conferences with me. These conferences will last 10-15 minutes and are something you should prepare for. They are a critical step in the writing process, which is why if you miss your conference, it counts as two absences. Keep track of when, and where, your conferences are. They will be held in my office or at Black Bear on Pleasant Street. Crude, yet accurate, maps drawn on the board to follow.

Communication/Community

The phone number is listed for messages only. The best way to get in contact with me is through email, and I will get back to you within 48 hours. I check my email Monday through Friday, once a day. Communication is essential to this class. Please ask questions whenever they arise, and make sure your email account is active.

Classroom community is also very important to me. We will be having discussions, debates, presentations, and so on. Please don't let this make you nervous. While this class is meant to challenge you, I also want it to be fun. I just don't believe in a class where the teacher lectures the whole session. So, get to know the names of the people sitting around you. Participate. It makes the time fly and it's a lot more interesting.

Friendly Advice

- Turn off your cell phone when you come to this class. It is disrespectful, and distracting, to have phones ring during class. If you need to keep your phone on, let me know before class starts. Also, no texting or checking your phone, for whatever reason, during class. I reserve the right to lower your participation grade if you pay more attention to your phone than the class.
- Don't plagiarize. If you ever have questions about how to cite in your paper, just ask me. It's better to be safe than retake English 102.
- Turn your work in on time. I do not accept late work. Only typed, paper copies of assignments will be accepted. No emailed assignments, please.
- Minimum page length will be enforced. Four pages, for example, means four full pages, not three pages and one line on the fourth page. Also, please use Times New Roman font in 12 pt. with 1" margins.
- See the 102 guide for more information on policies and procedures

Inspirational/Helpful Quotes

- "A class learns to teach itself."
- "Don't mistake kindness for weakness."

Fall 2006 Schedule for English 102 (subject to revision)

8.21 Class introduction. Buy materials for class.

8.23 Introduce first paper; how to think of a topic; informal writing. Think of a research question; read preface, introduction to "They Say/ I Say"

8.25 Meet in lower level of the library, room 136. Read "Hidden Intellectualism," pgs. 142-148; gather sources

8.28 Discussion on reading and topics; how to look at both sides (pg. 13 exercise). Contemplate your thesis

8.30 Constructing a working thesis. Revise your thesis, keep advancing it; read Part I in "They Say/ I Say"

9.01 MLA, quotations, formatting. Read "Shooting an Elephant"

9.04 Labor Day Recess

9.06 Reading discussion; conference sign-up; (pg. 27 exercise). Prepare for your conference

9.08 Class cancelled for conferences Prepare for your conference

9.11 Class cancelled for conferences Prepare to turn in your paper

9.13 First paper due; introduce debates

9.15 Assign debate groups; how to write proposals. Work with your debate group, prepare your proposal

9.18 Debates, proposals due from every group member. Prepare for your debate

9.20 Debates Read "Earth vs. Wal-Mars"

9.22 Introduce second paper; reading discussion. Contemplate a proposal for common ground

9.25 Neutrality (pg. 38 exercise). Read "Two Ways to Belong in America"

9.27 Reading discussion; shared values

- 9.29** Finding common ground with controversial issues; conference sign-up Prepare for your conference
- 10.2** Class cancelled for conferences. Prepare for your conference
- 10.4** Class cancelled for conferences. Prepare to turn in your paper
- 10.6** Second paper due; introduce annotated bib and research paper; mid semester point. Contemplate final research question; read "Dumpster Diving"
- 10.9** Unlikely arguments. Begin gathering sources
- 10.11** Credible sources. Prepare to meet me in the library
- 10.13** Meet with me in the library. Have at least three sources; Read "Why Don't We Complain?"
- 10.16** Reading discussion; extemporaneous arguments. Have at least four sources
- 10.18** Organizing arguments. Have at least five sources
- 10.20** Conference sign-up. Prepare for your conference; have six sources and a rough draft of the intro
- 10.23** Class cancelled for conferences Prepare for your conference
- 10.25** Class cancelled for conferences. Prepare to turn in your annotated bib
- 10.27** Annotated bib due; last day to drop a class. Read "The Speech the Graduates Didn't Hear"
- 10.30** Reading discussion. Figure out what sources you want to keep for your paper
- 11.1** The scripted argument
- 11.3** The scripted argument, part deux. Read "The Empire of Images," pgs. 149-161
- 11.6** Arguments in pop culture. Read a tabloid
- 11.8** The horrors of spell check; revision techniques. Review your final sources
- 11.10** Conference sign-up. Prepare for your conference
- 11.13** Class cancelled for conferences Prepare for your conference

11.15 Class cancelled for conferences Prepare to turn in your research paper

11.17 Research paper due

11.20-11.24 Thanksgiving Recess

11.27 Introduce second round of debates; presentation order, discussion. Brainstorm presentation ideas

11.29 Assign debate groups. Work with your debate group, prepare your proposal

12.1 Debates, proposals due from every group member. Prepare for your debate

12.4 Debates Prepare for your presentation

12.6 Presentations

12.8 Presentations; evaluations; last day of classes