

FINAL REVISION: Entering the Conversation

For your final project of the term, you'll have the opportunity to **research a specific question** related to a topic that is interesting and important to you. You will learn how others have approached and answered the question (accounting for a range of perspectives), and, finally, come to your own conclusions about that question. The topic of your question could be anything you like, but you'll want to consider seriously the topic you wrote about in your Position Paper and Counterclaim Paper as a good starting point here. What new questions could you draw from that topic? The key is to find a question that isn't settled and, ideally, one that you yourself aren't completely sure about. Whatever question you choose, you'll need **to account for several perspectives** on that topic and incorporate at least **three outside sources** in your essay. Note that if you stick with the topic from your previous two essays, you already have two perspectives on the topic to draw on. You might consider breaking the essay down into three parts:

Explain your question/topic carefully. (Only give as much information as the reader needs; this isn't strictly a "research" paper about the topic.)

Account for different perspectives on the topic. (What do different people or groups of people say about the topic? What reasons and evidence do they have?)

Come to a conclusion on the topic. (You don't necessarily have to take a hardline stance on the topic, but do draw some manner of conclusion. Aim for a thoughtful response to the topic, and explain the reasoning for your conclusion logically.)

You will complete this essay in a few stages:

- 1) Before class on Monday 11/18, you will post to Canvas a **one-paragraph proposal** that identifies and briefly describes the topic you would like to research, indicating your initial plan for the focus of your essay and including a picture or video that relates to your issue. This proposal should begin with a **research question**.
- 2) On Monday 11/25, you will turn in **an MLA Works Cited Page including at least two sources and a short write-up** that explains how those sources help you to answer your research question. (Note that we will visit the Collin Library on Monday 11/18 to learn how to find good sources, and you will be provided with time to search for sources in class.)
- 3) For class on Monday 12/2, prepare a **5-minute presentation** that includes handouts for your small group and an updated **Works Cited Page** with all the sources you've found so far.
- 4) On Wednesday 12/4, bring to class two copies of the **rough draft** of your essay.
- 5) On Wednesday 12/11, your **final draft** is due.

Length: 4-5 pages followed by a Works Cited page in MLA format.