

**Final Paper**  
**Research Proposal due on –**  
**Annotated bibliography plus first draft of introduction due on –**  
**First draft due on –**  
**Final draft due on –**

**Option 1: Article for *Harper's* on Immigration**

**Introduction**

Imagine you are a new writer for *Harper's*. As a magazine, it is known for addressing the concerns of mistreated workers, minorities, and other marginalized groups of people. With news of activists shouting to "Stop deportations!" and groups like No Más Muertes (No More Deaths) forming to prevent migrants from dying in the desert, immigration is clearly a hot topic. Some Americans are asking what happened to "Give me your poor, your tired, your huddled masses" – the famous lines by Emma Lazarus. Others continue to describe immigrants as "job-stealers," "disease-carriers," "criminals," and so on.

**Assignment**

For your final assignment, *Harper's* has asked you to write an argumentative report on the issue of immigration. Your editor (i.e. me) wants you to narrow down the topic by focusing on **a specific aspect of immigration**, such as how the border is represented in popular movies or music, or how NAFTA has affected Mexican farmers. As your editor, I have provided you with a list of possible research questions at the bottom of this sheet. However, you are free to develop your own.

**Requirements**

*Harper's* is a popular magazine for a well-read audience. So you will want to appear well-read as well (which after taking this course you are). To demonstrate you are not only well-read but also creative and capable of making interesting connections, I want you to draw upon at least **two** of the readings found on our syllabus. Besides that, you are also required to make use of **one book source, one journal article, and one website**.

**Some Possible Research Questions**

- How should the U.S. control its borders? Which strategy is most effective?
- Should undocumented workers be given access to health care?
- What has been the experience of Asian immigrants in some period of U.S. history?
- How has immigration to the U.S. changed as a result of the attacks on September 11, 2001?
- What are the pros and cons to providing bilingual education for immigrant children?
- What types of exploitation do undocumented immigrants suffer? What are the solutions to this problem?
- Do migrants help or hurt the U.S. economy? How? (Alternatively: should we care about whether migrants help or hurt the economy? Is this primarily a human rights issue, not an economic issue?)

- What are the difficulties for immigrants adjusting to life in the U.S. and what is the best way to maintain their cultural identity?
- How are another country's' immigration issues similar to or different from those of the US?

## Option 2: Critical History of an Idea

### Introduction

In *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben claims that “an idea, a relationship, can go extinct, just like an animal or a plant.” He then documents how a common notion of nature – nature as wild, independent of man, and eternal – no longer works because of climate change.

### Assignment

For this paper, I want you to research the history of some idea we have discussed in this class. If you are business-minded, maybe think about success: in the US, has being successful always been synonymous with making money? If you study biology, what about race: did Americans not once believe that the Irish were a distinct race? If you are religious, think about god(s): when did humans start imagining that god(s) resembled man – or vice versa?

The paper does, like your last, need to be an argument. (McKibben is *critiquing* how are ideas about nature have changed). So I want you to not only show (1) how our idea of something has changed but also (2) how that idea has changed *for the better or the worse*.

\*If you decide not to go with any of the ideas listed above, please okay your idea with me first.

### Required Sources

To demonstrate you are not only well-read but also creative and capable of making interesting connections, I want you to draw upon at least **two** of the readings found on our syllabus. Besides that, you are required again to make use of **one book source, one journal article, and one website**.

Good luck, I look forward to hearing what you have to say!