

Project Information

Gens-176-V Spr 2026

Long Form Scaffolded Assignment

In March, we start on an individual long-form writing project (approx 1750 -2250 words)

This will involve examining evidence, formulating a thesis, and writing a powerful argument supporting that thesis.

How the points will be divided up (out of 50 points total): 30 points will be on the process, 20 points on the final product.

The process will involve the following elements:

- an initial conference with me;
- brainstorming topics;
- library research and putting together reference material;
- peer review and peer editing;
- a preliminary draft, a full draft, final draft,
- final paper.

Reminder of our course goals:

Students will be able to:

- read inquisitively and generously
- read with attention to detail and nuance
- practice respectful but rigorous debate
- learn collaboratively with classmates and professor
- use writing as a means to discover and reconsider ideas
- develop arguable and defensible thesis statements
- integrate appropriate evidence to support argumentative claims

Process Deadlines:

1. Meet in the library, HW on library skills. **Feb 26.**
2. Preliminary Meetings with me: **March 5-10**
3. Topic: ***due March 12 (3 pts)***
4. Source Lists and Checks ***due April 9 (3 pts)***
5. Proposed Thesis, rough draft and journal ***due April 16 (8 pts)***
6. Journal and draft (round 2) ***due April 23 (8 pts)***
7. Full draft for peer editing ***due April 30 (8 pts)***

(Process: 30 points)

Final paper (20 points total, due May 16)

- Grammar and Mechanics: **3 points**
- Strength of Thesis Statement and Argument: **7 points**
- Accuracy, Brevity, and Clarity of Presentation: **7 points**
- Incorporation and Citation of Outside Sources: **3 Points**

Extra Help? Center for Writing and Speaking (COWS) is in Olin 191- it's a great resource.

Project Journal

Keep a journal of what you're doing each day. This includes

Summary of what you did; keep track of questions that come up as you write.

Make a note of the sources you're using as you go along.

Finish up with a summary of “roadblocks” you might have, and then with a “next steps” section.

There are two purposes for this document: (1) Makes it easier for you to put down the paper and pick it up again later, and (2) it provides you with documentation of your process (very important).

Due: Twice during the process, turned in with final paper.