

Essay Three
Draft due for Peer Review: Monday, November 19
Final draft due: Friday, November 30

Following the assignment in your textbook on page 239, you will need to write a “position paper that takes a stand on a controversial issue.” Drawing upon some of the discussions we’ve had in class recently, please choose a topic that has to do with either digital literacy or digital genres as they face and concern America and Americans today. Your task is to decide upon a specific issue from within these larger topics.

You might develop an argument in response to one of the following prompts (or others that we consider in class):

1. *Are young Americans (teenagers and those in their twenties) more literate in digital media or traditional media? What is the significance of this status for the nation as a whole and our national future? Does this literacy status reflect a global trend?*
2. *Are literacy skills transferable (from traditional print media to digital media)? Why or why not? What problems complicate this transfer of knowledge?*
3. *Have digital document genres become increasingly standardized in the last “few” years? Is this a good development or a bad one? Why or why not?*
4. *Are digital media genres simply the inheritors of the standards of traditional print genres? Or, are we seeing today some radical departures from the constraints of “print” genres when individuals (or companies) create content for the web? In the effort to make digital media more “realistic” (this applies to games, too), are designers ultimately trying to make digital genres replicas of their real-world counterparts?*

OK, so there are some ideas. Please know that you will need to develop an *argument* and provide many examples to support your claim.

Please stick closely to the description of arguments in the classical style, as Chapter Ten discusses. Follow the instructions in the tan-colored box on page 239. For further information and guidelines on writing an argumentative essay in the classical style, consult pages 271-275.

This essay must be a full four pages in length. Please use **three** research sources and quote from them in MLA style; quote from each article *twice*. Include a Works Cited page as page five.