

English 111
Dr. Newmark

ESSAY THREE

Draft due for Peer Review: Monday, December 1

Final draft due: Monday, December 8

On our website, I have posted information regarding “position papers” that “take stands on controversial issues.” Find the link on our main page that says “Arguments in the Classical Style.” Drawing upon this information and on some of the discussions we’ve had in class recently, please choose a topic that has to do with mechanical engineering and the challenges, necessary innovations, or controversies that face these engineers today (and that will in the future). Your task is to decide upon a specific issue from within this larger topic.

You have spent two class periods coming up with, and freewriting about, debatable issues related to the field of mechanical engineering. The challenge to you all was that you needed to come up with an *arguable claim*, which will be *your thesis*; you will use this as the launching point of your paper. Some of you came up with topics related to explosives and their potential for “good” rather than destruction; others considered pivotal moments in American history (often cataclysmic moments) as great impetuses for mechanical engineering innovation. All of you came up with broad ideas; now your job is to shape one of your ideas into an arguable claim. Remember all of the rules governing “thesis statements” (I have written these on the board). Bear these in mind as you craft your introductory paragraph.

Every thesis statement needs to be backed up by “reasons and evidence.” Be sure that you have examples to support your thesis statement and that you can anticipate the way in which someone might disagree with your claim. You will need to address these possible alternative perspectives in your paper as well.

In the “Arguments in the Classical Style” web resources I mention above, you will find step-by-step information on creating your own “argument in the classical style.” Be sure to refer to this information as you work on your paper.

This essay must be a full four pages in length. Please use three scholarly, peer-reviewed research sources (that you find on a research database) and quote from them in MLA style; quote from each article twice. One of your “research sources” can be an article (or book chapter) from our class. Include a Works Cited page as page five.