Contemporary Connections Paper 1

Com 215 - Murdock

Assignment Objectives:
1) Draw connections between course content and contemporary issues and/or events in the field of broadcasting.
2) Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the contemporary issue, including historical antecedents.
3) Demonstrate complete comprehension of the course concepts or issues addressed in your paper.
4) Refine your skills as a researcher by gathering outside sources of information to support your argument.
5) Show evidence of critical thought and personal reflection regarding the topic.
6) Create a sound argument through careful research, analysis and writing.
7) Gain an understanding of writing as a critical and reflective process.
8) Develop an appreciation for self as a writer, acknowledging strengths and weaknesses.

Assignment Components:
1. Core paper (100 pts.) – Due in class February 29
2. Reflective Notes (25 points)

Core Paper

Write a 4-5 page paper (no more than 6 pp. or I’ll count off points) grounded in a contemporary event, article, or discussion that connects to concepts we have or will discuss in class and the historical context of those concepts. Use APA style, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and double space.

1. Find a contemporary article (no more than 6 weeks old) from a mass media or academic source. Your article and proposed thesis needs to be approved by me by Feb. 11, 2008.
2. Develop an argument by:
   o Stating how and why this piece relates to class materials, and then providing examples and evidence to support your point.

OR

   o Adopting a particular point of view in regards to a certain aspect of broadcasting, such as technological advances or media diversity (to name just a few), and providing examples and evidence to support your point.

*If you have other ideas about how you would like to structure your paper and argument, please run them by me first.
3. Utilize outside resources (2-3 beyond your textbook and your article). Do not just use sources randomly in order to fulfill the requirements of the assignment; rather, use them to contribute meaningfully to your paper/argument.

4. Attach a copy of the article to the completed paper.

Reflective Portion (25 points)

As you move through the writing process (including the research process) please take notes regarding your thoughts/ideas/feelings as related to this project. As you write your paper, please put these thoughts/ideas/feelings in endnotes (if you are unsure how to use this function in Word, see me) to help me understand your paper and your writing process. At minimum you should average 1 endnote per page—well-done reflections will have many more per page.

These endnotes can reflect how you feel about a specific sentence, the assignment in general, the topic you chose to write about, or your writing process. The endnotes can be questions; and they do not need to be formal. In short, they should tell me something about how you arrived at the finished product you are handing in. They can explain (why you did what you did) why you chose to include or exclude certain things or what you wished you had time to do better. These are not, however, excuse notes. Please do not use each note as a chance to make an excuse—you are still expected to hand in your best work. This is simply a way for me (and you) to understand how you got there.

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i Here at the bottom of the page you’ll find examples of the types of footnotes you can use in your writing process.

ii I don’t think this sentence really flowed very well, but I couldn’t think of how to say it better.

iii The extra sources part of the assignment is hard, because I don’t really know how to use the Library search engines and everything from Google seemed like crap.

iv I like the article I chose, but now that I’m writing the paper, I think I should have gone with a different angle because there would be more things to say.

v I don’t usually think about what I write, I just write it. I mean, isn’t that what good writers do, they just write? And they don’t sit around thinking about it?

vi How do I create a good argument? I mean, how do I know if the evidence is good enough to support what I’m saying?

vii The important things in the reflection portion of the paper are not grammar, run-on sentences, or spelling, just go w/your thoughts & you should be fine! I really just want to know what UR thinking, so communicate however you feel comfy—but try to use language I’m likely to understand. And remember that the rest of your paper should use correct grammar, punctuation, citation, etc. (BTW: I’m old, and don’t have the whole texting vocab – so go easy on acronyms)