

Dr. Cothran's Three-Part CRTW Research Paper

For this assignment, you will need to write:

- a) a 7-9 page research paper (that includes quotes from at least 3 sources),
- b) a 1-2 page evaluation of your writing process, and
- c) an annotated bibliography that lists five research sources. Only two of these sources should be web sources; the other three should come from scholarly texts or journals. (Of course, all five could come from library/database texts; there is no limit on the amount of scholarly “print” you can use.)

Part A (100 points)

For your research paper, you'll need to focus on one of the controversial issues addressed by Postman in his text. Think out your own opinion on this issue. Once you've chosen (and thought about) what you plan to discuss, do some research and begin writing your paper. Your essay should do three things:

- 1) Briefly summarize Postman's stance on the issue, using quotes and paraphrases where appropriate. This summary must be **completely objective**.
- 2) Present **a thesis** which articulates your views on the issue
- 3) In the body of the paper, address or include at least **three outside sources**, using correct MLA format for quoting and/or paraphrasing. Use your sources to back you up or to argue against.

Your goal is to write an argument that displays good critical thinking. I will be using the standards as I grade your paper. Are you accurate? Clear? Sufficient? Precise? Deep? Broad? Relevant? Reasonable Overall? **Your paper must go beyond simply arguing your case—you've got to be evaluating the merits of the stance you have chosen in a detailed, logical, and sophisticated manner.**

Suggestion: The more specific you get with the issue, the easier this assignment may be! For instance, instead of trying to cover what Postman says about the whole subject of politics and television, you might look at his claim that “on television the politician does not so much offer the audience an image of himself, as offer himself as an image of the audience” (134). You might pick a politician (Sarah Palin, Barack Obama, Herman Cain, Nikki Hayley) and discuss whether or not this statement reflects the way(s) they use the media. Or, you might look closely at Chapter 7 (“Now...This”) and explore how Facebook status updates, tweets, and texts have evolved Postman's theories on “anticommunication” (105).

Part B (20 points)

After you have written the essay, spend 1-2 pages evaluating the thesis you chose. Be brutally honest! How did your **point of view** affect the conclusions you wished to present? What **impediments** did you have that kept you from looking at the issue in an alternate light? What **assumptions** did you have that affected your reading and research? Were you searching for truth, or supporting a long-standing view of your own? (No points off if the answer to that last question is yes! I just want to make sure that you can recognize your own biases and filters.)

Part C (20 points)

An annotated bibliography is a Works Cited page that provides a short, summary paragraph after each MLA citation of each source. This paragraph should be objective, describing the key points **(the fundamental and powerful concepts)** of the source. This paragraph proves to me that you read and understood the main concepts of the piece. In addition to the five research sources that are annotated, you should include 1) a MLA entry on Postman's book (no annotation needed, as I assume you read it for class!) and 2) MLA entries on any TV shows you referenced or quoted within the paper (no annotations needed for these, either).