

Dr. Cothran
Paper 3

For this assignment, you will need to write a 3-5 page paper that explores both your ideas and some current research on one of the following topics. Your paper should be typed (in 12 point font) and double-spaced. It should also include a Works Cited page that lists **four** outside sources. Three of the four sources must either be quoted or referenced in the body of your paper.

1. Research a school shooting that has occurred in the past 15 years. As you research, try to determine what factors lead the shooter to commit such a violent, senseless crime. What forces – or what people – helped bring about this terrifying event?
2. James J. Farrell argues that “shopping centers can reveal cultural patterns that we don’t usually see” (379). Choose a shopping center (mall, superstore, collection of boutiques) and write an essay that explores the particular values, habits, and pleasures it promotes. What stories does this place “sell” to those who go there? Are these healthy stories?
3. James J. Farrell describes the mall as an art gallery. Would you agree with this sentiment? What is art, exactly? Are picture ads in store windows, rainbow piles of cashmere sweaters, or packages of bath gel forms of modern art? Why or why not?
4. Jon Pahl writes, “Malls have become sacred places because traditional churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques have failed” (466). Has the shopping center (along with the pleasures of buying things) replaced older forms of meaning (often found in religion)? Is this a bad thing?
5. Images of sexuality surround us – on billboards, in magazines and commercials. Is this a healthy sort of thing? Is a sexually playful or tantalizing commercial merely a harmless reflection of natural human drives and open-minded cultural norms? Or, do you find fault with the profusion of sexuality in advertising? Does it objectify men and women, or sexualize adolescents, or have some degenerative effect on our attitudes towards love and/or sex?
6. How is class/ethnicity portrayed in advertising? Are certain classes/races misrepresented or ignored? How do these presentations affect society’s views of these classes/races?