

ASSIGNMENT #3 SEQUENCE: ADVOCACY ESSAY OR GRANT PROPOSAL

PRE-ESSAY PROPOSAL: Monday 11/14 (5 copies)

FIRST VERSION: Fri. 12/2 over email or at my office - with cover letter.

Email pieces to workshop members.

WORKSHOP: Mon. 12/5

REVISION: Wed. 12/14 with final portfolio.

Suggested length: 8 pages, double-spaced.

The **third assignment** offers the option of writing (a) an advocacy essay or “position paper” on a social or ethical issue, seeking to persuade readers of a particular viewpoint or (b) a grant proposal, which either advocates a position or explores a social problem and seeks funding for research or a program/policy to address this issue. Both types of pieces also call for outside research. Be sure to append a bibliography of at least five secondary sources.

If you choose option (a), you should present a clear and persuasive argument about a particular social issue; you might choose to identify some solutions or strategies that communities (and individuals) might use to address this issue. In this essay, you should devote most of your space to your own argument and address counterargument briefly. Advocacy essays or “position papers” can strongly influence readers and challenge them to understand or define social problems differently and consider various solutions.

Alternately, if you select option (b), the grant proposal, then you should either identify/define a social or ethical problem or present a persuasive argument in relation to a social or ethical issue. After your presentation of the issue, you should request funding from a real or fictive source for a program, policy or research project. Be sure to explain why your contribution to studying or solving this problem is important. Check that your budget is practical. I will distribute some material on grants in class. A well-written grant proposal need not be a multi-million dollar project; it can be an original and creative local project (e.g. at MIT or in the Cambridge community) with a relatively small budget.

Some students choose completely different issues from essays 1 and 2; others continue to write about the same theme from different angles. If you want to write about the same topic as #2, you are strongly encouraged to write a grant proposal. Please set up a conference time to meet with me if you are thinking about writing about the same topic as #2.

EXERCISE 3.1: proposal: Due in class Mon. 11/14. BRING FIVE COPIES.

Write a one or two paragraph proposal for this essay, describing:

- * your topic-specifying option a or b
- * your prospective argument
- * why you believe this essay would be interesting for readers.
- * a short bibliography of sources
- *if you are focusing on a similar topic as #2: how this essay will differ from #2