
-proposal (1+ page, 1 pt.) due Monday, April 20
-digital-diet diary (1+ page, 1 pt.) Wednesday, April 22
-research notes (2+ pages, 1pt.) due Monday, April 27
-outline (2+ pages, 1 pt.) due Wednesday, April 29
-rough works cited page (1 page, 1 pt.) Wednesday, April 29
-rough draft (6+ pages, 2 pts.) due Monday, May 4
-email me for help or use online tutoring [optional] Monday, May 11
-final draft (6+ pages, 15 pts.) due All of these must be typed using MLA format and submitted to Canvas.
-debates (4 pts.) online discussion board May 6 - 13

Topic

In 2020 in the middle of a pandemic, it is more apparent than ever that people are connected to each other through the internet, their phones, and other devices. We check our phones for the latest news, weather, emails, text messages, and notifications hourly. Does all this connectivity do more harm than good? Is the digital age in which we live a utopia created by Apple, Google, and Amazon, or is it a dystopia of technological addiction and despair?

In this final essay (and in-class debate), you will examine how technology affects individuals, American culture, and even global culture in the digital age. Your essay will be 7+ paragraphs / 6 pages and should include one counterpoint paragraph. Every support paragraph must include examples from life and two quotations from your research articles. Choose one of these topics and take a clear position on one side of the debate:

1. Do the internet and social media improve or damage democracy, political participation, voting, elections, etc.? How and why?
2. Do digital technologies and the internet increase or decrease people’s creativity, imagination, art, music, etc.? How and why?
3. Do social media platforms and smartphones improve or hurt dating, relationships, marriages, families, social interaction, friendships, etc.? How and why?
4. Do the internet and social media increase racism, sexism, intolerance, discrimination, etc., or do these platforms improve race relations, equality, diversity, and multiculturalism? How and why?

Audience & Purpose

Imagine that your readers do not agree with your position on the controversial topic, so you must use a range of evidence (facts, statistics, expert opinions, examples) and appeals (pathos, logos, kairos, ethos). Your purpose is to persuade your readers that your position is valid although you might not be able to change their opinion completely. You will also refer to your final draft of the essay during the Essay 4 debates.

Reading Requirement

- “Is Google Making Us Stupid?” - “The Social Media Echo-Chamber Is Real” - research articles
Research Requirement

No matter which topic you choose, you must include and analyze supporting evidence/quotations from at least four recent research articles as well as specific examples from life (websites, social media, games, etc.).

The research sources can include interviews, books, articles from magazines, newspapers, journals, or books. Use the library’s electronic databases to find articles (Academic Search Complete, JSTOR, SocINDEX, etc.), and two of your research articles must come from a library database.

You may also use credible, academic internet websites (i.e., Google scholar or .edu) and national news sites, such as the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and NPR. You may also include one or two interviews that you conduct, and you may also use charts or other visuals in this paper.

Structure & Content Checklist

___ Write a creative, informative title for your essay; write an interesting, inventive hook as well.
___ The introduction should define your terms and identify the topic, debate, potential controversy.
___ The thesis of your essay must clearly state your position on the topic and preview your argument specifically.
___ Use clear topic sentences and transitions to provide a structure for your essay.
___ Organize the supporting paragraphs by category, comparison, or order of importance (emphatic order).
___ Incorporate logical reasons, analysis of specific examples, and research to support your thesis.
___ Include one counterpoint paragraph.
___ Include examples from life in every supporting paragraph.
___ Include two quotations from the research articles in every supporting paragraph.
___ Remember to I C E : introduce, cite, and explain each quotation, example, or paraphrase.
___ Write a strong conclusion that summarizes the entire essay and contains a clear, reasonable call-to-action.
___ It is acceptable to use first-person (“I,” “my,” “we”) but not second-person (“you,” “your”).
___ Edit and proofread your sentences so that they are as clear and correct as possible.
___ Include a properly formatted works cited page.
___ Format your paper properly: double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font.

Do not plagiarize (copy, borrow, steal, or buy someone else’s writing); if you do, you will receive zero points for this assignment and possibly fail the course.

Process – You must complete and submit all of the following with the final draft (I will provide a folder):

___ final draft & works cited page
___ printouts of 3+ research article(s) used in the essay [very important] – not required now
___ tutoring receipt or my comments** ___ rough draft(s)
___ peer review form ___ outline
___ rough works cited page ___ research notes
___ digital-diet diary ___ proposal

** Use online tutoring or have me red your draft – now optional.

• Bring your assignment sheet, notes, draft, etc. with you when you see a tutor at the Language Success Center.
• Please feel free to visit my advice hours (MW 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. & TTh 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) or email me (neil.watkins@chaffey.edu) at any point in your writing process.

Proposal Questions

1. Which topic have you selected for this essay? Why did you choose that topic?
2. Which side of the debate have you selected? Why?
3. What are some possible supporting reasons for your position?
4. What are some possible arguments against your position?
5. What type of research do you think you need to find?
6. What obstacles or challenges might you face as you write? How will you overcome those?
7. When & where will you write the essay?

Digital-Diet Diary

1. Choose one of these to eliminate (or drastically reduce) from your technology consumption:
   - browsing the internet
   - playing video games
   - watching videos online
   - checking social media
2. Try not to use that technology or do that activity for one to seven days.
3. Answer these questions after your digital diet ends:
   - What activity or technology did you choose to avoid? Why?
   - How long did your diet last?
   - How did your sense of time change?
   - How did you feel?
   - What did you discover?

Students’ Advice for Essay 4

- “Make sure you find reputable research sources.”
- “Put time and effort into the research so that your essay is more convincing.”
- “It is all about the outline. If you have a detailed, complete outline, your paper will come together easier.”