

College Writing Assignments Compiled from KSU Syllabi, 2014-2015

Assignment	Writing Idea or Theme
Freewrite	Informal writing completed during class time on an assigned topic
Reading Responses	Assigned articles requiring a one page written response to each reading, along with student contributions to class discussions centered on readings.
Formal Essays	Essays requiring three drafts. Draft one is brought to class for peer review. The second draft and final draft will be turned in to the instructor. Essay topics may include; summaries, analysis, critiques, reflections, and research.
Visual Project	Groups of 3-4 create and present a visual project which profiles an assigned topic.
Research Process Log	Research writing exercises including an annotated bibliography and a process log with entries recounting elements of the research process.
Multimodal Project	Reformulation of an essay's important message into a multimodal Public Service Announcement using different media.
Portfolios	Collections of essays written during the semester, along with a reflective paper about the articles.
Journal Entries	One page journal entry brought to class each week. Entries can detail readings for class, montages of poetry and fiction, word-sketches of people observed in the world and thoughtful reflections of author's life. Journal entries may explain how coursework from the current week connected to work from previous weeks, and may also reflect questions about readings or other class writings.
Reader-Response Papers	Responses to questions or topics pertaining to assigned text, comparing and contrasting how different authors deal with similar themes. Quotations from the texts should be included to effectively prove points made about the work.
Article Analysis and Presentation	Student led class discussion and presentation of a journal article relating to the course theme once during the semester. Write up includes discussion questions, and an in-depth one-page analysis of the article.
Translate a Narrative from One Medium to Another	Class-appropriate narrative from any medium or modality translated into another medium or modality with diverse representations of central themes. The assignment includes a one page rationale explaining how changing the medium changed what could be said and why the particular medium was chosen.
Argue with the Readings	A response with citations to one of the course readings or a reading related to the main themes of the course found through research.

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Personal Memoir Essay	Reflection on events and relationships that have helped shape the author, including a discussion of their distinctive qualities and the significance they play in the author's life.
Pecha-kucha Presentation	An experimental study presented in a compact pecha-kucha format including important study elements.
Informative Essay	Review of a problematic societal or personal condition that has been successfully improved through an intervention, including: 1) a coherent argument proving the problem's existence, 2) an intervention which could improve the problem, 3) details explaining how the intervention alleviates the problem.
Oral History Essay	Interview of an individual, not an immediate family member, a generation older who experienced a significantly different life event from interviewer. Narrative should include details about the subject, revealing important insights about her/his life with comparisons to interviewer's life and plans for the future. Describe ways the subject understood their life and experiences.
Rhetorical Analysis of Twitter Hashtag Movements	Group discussion and rhetorical analysis of a hashtag movement including an evaluation of the logos, pathos, and ethos of the movement, how the realities and constraints of the twitter medium influence and shape the message of the movement, and potential power and danger of the movement. Discussions should include the effectiveness of the rhetorical strategies within the medium of twitter. Presentations, including a report explaining the key points and findings of the groups' analysis, are part of the assignment and provide 1) background information about the chosen movement, 2) understanding of the explorations listed above, 3) questions to explore, or 'so what?' ideas.
Quantitative Analysis of Facebook	An analysis of group members' status pages on Facebook, including a creation of 4–6 categories describing information found. Categories could include "what they're doing today" or "pictures of pets." Tallies are placed next to the categories each time they appear on a group members' page. After a pre-determined length of time, a review of data is completed. A table showing categories and frequency numbers and a written summary could include questions such as: What is the most frequently posted type of information on the newsfeeds represented? Are there any surprises in what the data says? Are there reasons to believe that a correlation exists between frequency of cell phone use/social media use and increased dissatisfaction with life or depression?
Essay One Description (TV Analysis)	Three open-ended options for analysis of a TV program for content or as a medium: 1. Examine TV as a medium. Is TV a neutral medium or not? Are we better off as a culture having TV? How has TV changed the way we relate to one another, or changed the "scale or pace or pattern" of our relationships

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Essay One Description (TV Analysis)	<p>relate to others, or changed the intensity or pace of relationships? 2. An evaluation and description of a particular TV show as content. Does the content of the medium matter in terms of how it shapes people and whether it is beneficial or harmful? Does the selected show benefit or harm in terms of content? Does the age or other demographic descriptors of the audience matter in terms of how they are affected by the content? How does the show view reality, has it desensitized viewers? 3. A rhetorical evaluation of a particular show. Who is the intended audience and how is the show selling itself to that audience? How does the show try to set itself apart from other similar shows in order to gain an audience? How does the show use the tools of the medium to its advantage?</p>
Essay Two Description (Social Media Analysis)	<p>Three option for an extended essay on social media as content or medium. 1. Examine one source of social media, (twitter, Instagram, Facebook, facetime, snapchat, blog, texting, etc.). How does the medium shape the messages that are transmitted and the relationships that result? How does the connective technology change human relationships? Are relationships formed by communicating via the social medium stronger or weaker, better or worse, than relationships formed face to face or in other mediums? Is important information from friends overlooked because of the vast amounts of tweets, status statements, or texts? 2) Examination of one particular usage of a social medium as a message, such as a twitter hashtag that has turned into a social movement. Has it been an effective medium for social change; why or why not? 3. Why is social media turned to so frequently throughout the day? What is to be gained and/or lost from its usage?</p>
Essay Three Description (Experiment Doing Without Technology/Social Media)	<p>Review of in-class readings, discussions, and writings, to identify significant impressions or new interests. Design of an experimental study to observe the effects of going without one form of social media or TV entertainment for a week. A write up of the experiment should include five sources, a research question, hypothesis, data, results, reflection, and conclusion.</p>