Essay topics – Social Sciences

1. You are writing to a person who lives in an impoverished part of the world, which is experiencing rapid population growth and severe environmental degradation. By drawing upon articles read in class and your own informed opinion, explain to him/her your understanding of the situation and what you think needs to happen to ensure a better future for both of you.

2. After reading articles by Oxfam, Kofi Annan, Robert Reich, and any others you think apply, address the problem of the gap between the rich and the poor. What is underlying this problem? Take into account what others have said in your response.

3. Characterize the role of science and technology in the world today as it relates to one of the following themes: poverty, religion, ethical or moral behavior, progress, economic development, or other related theme.

4. Lao-tzu claims that the world can’t be improved. Consider his reasoning for saying this and agree or disagree with his argument. Consider arguments from other readings in your response.

5. Do Rachel Carson and Lao-tzu share a similar point of view? To what extent does Carson embrace a Taoist perspective?

6. What actually is the environment and what is an environmentalist? Consider what others have said in formulating your response.

7. Critique Edward T. Hall’s article, “The Anthropology of Manners.” Does he give his subject fair treatment? If so, how so? If not, in what ways is he being unfair or incomplete?

8. A topic of your choice involving a reading or readings in some way and approved by the instructor.
Writing 2
Unit Two – Major writing assignment
October 30, 2006

**Paper Guidelines:**
Length: 3-5 pages
Due date: November 8.
Format: MLA

**Task:** Write a persuasive paper of 3-5 pages on one of the prompts given or one of your choosing, which is approved by the instructor. The essay prompts are just that—prompts. They will help you focus your thinking. You will still need to formulate a thesis which can be dealt with within the length of the assignment. Include a Works Cited list with your final version.

**Skills to be worked on:**
Openings and introductions
Formulating a workable thesis
Developing an argument through paragraphs with clear and supportive topic sentences
Writing which employs smooth transitions
Proper MLA formatting
Research skills

**Thinking Rhetorically about your Audience:**
To practice becoming aware of your audience, you get to choose. In doing so, you should consider what type of rhetorical style you will use to appeal to your audience. Do you want to elicit an emotional response as a way of persuading your audience? If so, pathos might be helpful. Is appearing reasonable a top priority? If so, then you might want to include factual details in support of your argument. Citing multiple sources will increase your credibility (ethos), if you want to come across more authoritative. Perhaps you want to integrate a combination of techniques to make your case. Along with your final draft, you should include on a separate type-written page a notice to your instructor of your rhetorical approach and proposed audience.