Unit One Major Writing Assignment

Due Date: Sunday, October 22nd, emailed to me by Midnight.

Length: 5-7 pages typed--not including your title page and works cited page. Your paper must be written using APA format (see page 381 of A Writer’s Reference).

Assignment: Our Unit One reading assignments and discussions have dealt largely with the impact of science on our lives and the responsibility of scientists and non-scientists to understand the effects (both positive and negative) of scientific research and innovations. This assignment asks you to choose a scientific event or innovation and report on its impact on your own life. This is your opportunity to respond to Oppenheimer, who “urges people to recognize the importance of understanding and evaluating issues in science that have global repercussions.”1

More specifically, your essay will provide a detailed report of your topic's scientific history, its impact on your life, and its current or possible future global repercussions.

There are several stages involved in writing this essay, each of which will be discussed in further detail in class; but briefly, they are:

1. Select a topic and write a one-page research proposal: A hard copy of your research proposal is due Wednesday, October 11th.

You are free to choose your own topic. Some areas you might begin thinking about include:

- Science and agriculture--genetically modified foods
- Science and medicine/health--genetics, cloning, vaccination
- Science and energy--sustainability, solar power
- Science and the environment--global warming, recycling
- Science and education--standardized testing, intelligent design
- Science and war--nuclear technology
- Science and religion.

These topics are of course too broad for a short research paper so focus your research proposal on a very specific historical event, development, or technology. (For example, you might focus on stem-cell research rather than genetics, or hybrid cars rather than global warming.)

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2. **Compile a bibliography:** Minimum of 5 sources including at least two journal articles. You may incorporate any of the reading assignments from *Writing About the World*, if you find them relevant. Once you’ve selected a topic and developed a general sense of the requirements of the assignment, you need to gather information on this topic, using both library and Internet resources. Our trip to the library will help you get started with your research.

3. **Write a draft of the essay:** Your first draft (2-4 pages) is due on **Monday, October 16th**. You must have a well-written, organized introduction and thesis statement and several of your body paragraphs completed. You will be evaluated on how thoroughly you present and evaluate the evidence in support of your thesis. You must bring three copies of your first draft to class.

5. **Revise the draft:** Your first revision is due on **Wednesday, October 18th**. It should be 5-7 pages typed, and must incorporate the comments you received during your first peer review session. You will have the option of peer review or working alone on your paper during class.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

You will email me your final draft by no later than midnight on Sunday, October 22nd. Your paper must contain:

1. A creative and descriptive title that reflects your thesis or proposition.
2. An introductory paragraph (or series of paragraphs) that previews your entire paper.
3. A thesis or proposition stated clearly in your introductory section.
4. Logically ordered paragraphs developed with specific, convincing, and properly cited evidence.
5. Clear distinctions between your ideas and those of the authors you cite. You need to cite **everything** you paraphrase or quote.
6. A concluding paragraph (or series of paragraphs summarizing your main points, the significance of your paper, and describing areas for further inquiry).
8. Adherence to formal conventions of grammar, diction, spelling, mechanics, and usage.