

English 102 Section EBS Assigned Date	Assignment	Due Date
1/27/20	500 words on Oscar Wilde quote found at beginning of "Science of Writing" article.	1/31/20
1/31/20	250 words on this question: "What does it mean to be human today?"	2/3/20
2/3/2020	Read the two essays. Find two ideas or concepts from each one and synthesize them—in 500 words—into a prediction on whether, given the current state of our cultural and political polarization, some of which is described in the first essay, you think our future will be utopian or dystopian and why?	2/7/20
2/10/2020	250 words on what Einstein means about imagination on slide 11 in the PowerPoint, <i>What the Future Looks Like</i>	2/12/20
2/12/2020	500 words based on reading the 1 st essay in <i>What the Future Looks Like</i> : Using two researched examples, write an essay on how climate change has negatively impacted food production in three parts of the world and has led to conflict, war, and migration. Ball mentioned Haiti, North Africa, and the Arab Spring. Consider how the drought in Syria has led to Civil War.	2/19/20
2/21/2020	500 words: Use 2 outside sources for attribution (1 for each response) and address these two concepts: 1) We know from scientific research that animals do have emotions, that some mammalian species actually mourn ... the early death of an offspring for instance. Are human beings the only species that KNOW they are going to die? 2) Are humans the only species that has consciousness? Or, the ability to think about how they are thinking? To be aware of how they are thinking?	2/28/20
3/2/2020	500 words: In the first essay in the book by Philip Ball, <i>What the Future Looks Like</i> , in the section, "The Future of Democracy and Religion," he writes, "Not only is it clear that stable democracies remain as elusive as ever in large parts of the world—and certainly don't arise as if by magic from the overthrow of a dictatorship—but it also can't be taken for granted that once they have arrived, they are here to stay. Demagogic populism in Europe and the U.S. is ... threatening to transform liberal democracies into 'Strong Man' regimes more often [historically] associated with Russia, China, and Southeast Asia, sustained by coercion, corruption, and collusion." Write an essay that uses three examples to support or refute this claim.	3/4/20
3/4/2020	1,000 words: In the 2 nd essay in the book, "The Biosphere," by Gaia Vince, he writes, "We humans have always exploited our environment's resources for food, energy, and all out other needs. We're brilliant at it, and it's led us to being such a successful species that we live longer and better than ever before and now dominate the world. In the past our activities led to a few local extinctions, but there are now more than seven billion of us and we act on an industrial, global scale, threatening the very resources we rely on. Are we just another part of nature doing what nature does, reproducing to the limits of environmental capacity, after which we will suffer a population crash? (How might this crash occur?) Or, are we the first species capable of self-determination, able to modulate our natural urges and manage our plundering of the natural world so we can maintain habitability into the future?" Answer this question the way you see it, use 2 outside sources for attribution.	3/13/20 I will collect all 8 writings to date here, on Friday 3/13.
3/2/2020	Please refer to the <i>Atlantic</i> article by Charles Duhigg, "The Untold Story of How We All Got so Mad at One Another." There are five 500-word responses on the assignment sheet. Work through each for class discussion ending the assignment on March 30 th .	3/30/20
Shut Down Start	Hi everyone. I will certainly miss our classroom dynamic. Unfortunately, the consequences of this viral outbreak puts us in an "online situation" probably for the rest of the semester, so that's what we'll plan for. The rest of our assignments will be totally based on the readings. We will try to meet via Zoom once a week. More on that to follow. In the meantime, start reading and writing. Let me know if you have any questions. Please, this time, put all of your work below into one Word folder ok? I'll let you know when I'm going to collect it all. Please be on the lookout for emails from me in your CCBC account. Stay healthy, breathe	
3/30/2020	Read essay three in <i>What the Future Looks Like: Climate Change</i> Review slide 23 in the PowerPoint on the www.writingforstem website. Watch the following video and read the attached article: https://time.com/5462102/climate-change-report-trump-science/ The Government's Massive New Climate Change Study Challenges Trump's Policies In 250 words describe 2 of the current administration's policies on climate change and whether you agree or disagree.	4/3/20
4/3/2020	Read essay four in <i>What the Future Looks Like: The Future of Medicine</i> This one is particularly ironic considering the timing of the current pandemic on Covid -19.	4/10/20

	<p>Review slides 24 & 25 in the PowerPoint on the www.writingforstem website. Watch the following video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X31g5TB-MRo .</p> <p>In 1,000 words: The idea that there would be a great pandemic and that it was imminent was not unforeseen by many in the medical community, but pretty much ignored by politicians and cultural leaders. In the first 500 words, with one outside source used for attribution, describe the relationship between climate change, zoonotic disease, and viral or bacterial epidemics. In the next 500 words describe what our “new normal” looks like? With Covid-19 changing almost everything, what is our new normal now? How will we live our lives? Use one outside source for attribution.</p>	
4/10/2020	<p>Read essay five and six in <i>What the Future Looks Like: Genomics and Genetic Engineering and Synthetic Biology</i></p> <p>Review slides 26 through 32 in the PowerPoint on the www.writingforstem website. Watch the PBS story on genetic engineering: https://www.pbs.org/video/nova-wonders-can-we-make-life-dzcxg8/</p> <p>Since genetic engineering seems to be a foregone conclusion, are you ready (in 500 words) to design your future children? Why or why not? If you don't, would you be guilty of bad parenting? Would your children be at a disadvantage as they grow up?</p>	4/13/20
4/13/2020	<p>Read essay seven in <i>What the Future Looks Like on Transhumanism</i></p> <p>Review slides 33-38 in the PowerPoint on the www.writingforstem website. Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STsTUEOqP-g. This is, perhaps, the most important concept we will discuss this semester. Remember our ongoing theme is <i>What does it mean to be human?</i> In 1,000 words, with two outside sources set up as attributions in your narrative, describe the post-human era in detail. Use your imagination. In the last paragraph, relate whether you would like to live in this world, why or why not? What will it mean to be human then?</p>	4/20/20
4/20/2020	<p>Read essay ten in <i>What the Future Looks Like on Artificial Intelligence</i></p> <p>Review slides 46-49 in the PowerPoint on the www.writingforstem website. Watch all the following short videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RJcRABevyCk DaVinci Surgery https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vIT2da6N_o Next Generation Robots https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrQ9c5hmbFE Advanced Humanoid Robots Until 2019 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHBcVlqpvZ8 Boston Dynamics dancing robot https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKjCWfuvYxQ Boston Dynamics robot with gun https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJTU48_yghs Trailer Her https://abcnews.go.com/Nightline/video/buy-sex-robot-equipped-artificial-intelligence-20000-54712355 Katie Couric sex robots https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTSrLHxSoAQ Sex robots Europe https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBfkcZLfwg Huston bans sex robots https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r211u89eUaY 15 Jobs That Will Disappear In The Next 20 Years Due To AI https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlJa6qH4BAs Mapping the human brain</p> <p>As you can see, AI will relatively change us, change what it means to be human. Using two sources from the videos above and setting them up as attributions in your narrative, chose one of the following questions and write a 1,000 word response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can humans have emotional relationships with AI/robots? What does this mean in the context of the question, what does it mean to be human? • What would a “driverless” world look like? How would this affect you personally? How about the insurance company? • P. 124 – Boden writes, “Today’s learning systems are hugely powerful but they’re not well understood ... Their designers/programmers don’t really understand how they work, so can’t reliably predict what they are going to do next.” Researchers that study the human brain can say the exact same thing (ref mapping brain video) . Will we as humans ever know everything there is to know about anything? Is it dangerous to assume we will or can? How? • Consider everything AI has achieved so far. Describe ten challenges AI will overcome in the future. (Make sure you address why for each item.) • Do you think the singularity will happen? Why of why not? • What’s the difference between functional consciousness and phenomenal consciousness or qualia? Describe 3 examples of each. 	4/27/20
4/27/2020	<p>Read essay 17 from <i>What the Future Looks Like, Apocalypse</i></p> <p>Review slides 58-59 in the PowerPoint on the www.writingforstem website. Watch the following: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufFjdZ3CqA0 How the World Ends, Science https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yaTePHW6MGg Top 10 Ways the World Might End (in the Next 100 Years</p>	5/4/20

	<p>Remember your earlier essay on comparing dystopian worlds vs utopian worlds? Expand on that and write a 1,000 word essay on how you think, based on what you've learned so far in the previous chapters you've read, and in the discussions we've had, the world will end? Or, if you don't think it will end, how will it survive given everything that is happening, everything that is happening to how we reply to the question: What does it meant to be human?</p>	
5/42020	<p>Read Ryszard Kapuscinski's book <i>The Other</i>. Review the PowerPoint on Race on www.writingforstem.com on the Supplemental page. Watch the following videos online or wherever you can get them. I'll provide links when I can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nqv9k3jbtYU Jane Elliot's How Racist Are You? • National Geographic's The Human Family Tree • Crash, Motion Picture, released in 2004 • The House We Live In, Directed by Eugene Jarecki, Documentary <p>This last assignment is 2,000 words. Cite via attribution, two ideas from Kapuscinski's book, <i>The Other</i>, as you answer one of the following questions:</p> <p>Writing Option: (#1) The Human Family Tree, Nat Geo. Given that DNA and anthropological evidence indicate that all human beings started in Africa and migrated in various patterns to various locations around the globe where specific races took on certain traits shaped by nature and culture, write a 2,000 word response that uses the evidence offered in this study by the National Geographic Society as context for modern concepts such as prejudice and discrimination. In other words, how much of a difference does it make in knowing our true evolutionary origins in the way we evaluate "those" who are not like "us," or, the "other," if we all came from the same place?</p> <p>Writing Option: Crash. Is talk about people stereotyping different races, ethnic groups, sexual orientations, gender, or religion true? Maybe it's just a bunch of academic B.S.? Maybe we've moved away from prejudicial feelings and actions? Do I really carry a burden of preconceived prejudices around with me? How do I really judge people? Maybe I don't see or make any judgments about race, ethnicity, sexual preference, gender, or religion when I first meet someone? Maybe I just check their personalities or mood or how they act? Most students claim not to immediately self-identify with race or ethnicity. These two characteristics are far down the list of how they identify themselves to themselves. Write an essay on where and how race fits into your way of identifying yourself and others. Is it true that you've put away race as a way of screening others? Or, does it lurk somewhere in your unconscious mind and you are guilty of evaluating others based on stereotypes? How complicated is this idea? How can we rid ourselves of it?</p> <p>Writing Option: The House I Live In: Race and the "War on Drugs": The House I live In is a searing indictment of "our" response to drugs. We are conditioned, by the media, to look at drug use and abuse as a problem of the individual and not as a larger-scale, societal problem, alleviating most of us from accepting any responsibility for the way The House I Live In interprets the drug issue in America today.</p>	5/15/20