

Professor Andrew Rusnak

## **English Research Paper #2 Guidelines for GREATS, Fall 2018:**

Sections: 102/EBA, 101/ECS, 102/EDS

This paper requires you to perform an analysis on a scientific and/or technological issue that has a noticeable impact on culture:

**Step 1:** Examine the requirements for writing research papers, use the checklist reviewed at the beginning of the semester and follow the requirements of using six credible sources, two of which must be in the form of tables, charts, graphs. You'll need a well-defined thesis and your paper must be in APA format with parenthetical references and a well-organized "References" page. Follow **ALL** requirements on the checklist. **This paper must be written in third person.**

**Step 2:** Select an essay from *The Best Science and Nature Writing: 2014* (English 102) or *2010* (English 101). Students in English 102 may use Roy Scranton's book, *Learning to Die in the Anthropocene: Reflections on the End of a Civilization*.

**Step 3:** The first paragraph must contain a strong thesis statement that addresses the following:

### **English 102**

- 1) **(Thesis)** Go to the corresponding PowerPoint slide in the presentation for the essay you have selected. Examine the question around which you will develop part of your thesis. Let's use Nicholas Carr's essay, *The Great Forgetting*, as an example. The question in the PowerPoint asks you to develop an essay response, starting with a declarative thesis, on one of several quotes from the Carr essay. Let's use this one for our example:

P.10: Because automation alters how we act, how we learn, and what we know, it has an ethical dimension. The choices we make, about which tasks we hand off to machines, shapes our lives and the place we make for ourselves in the world.

- 2) **(Thesis)** As you develop a thesis statement and your response, also consider and include in your thesis the following: Does automation contribute in an active way to positively or negatively shape cultural values? So, your thesis may look something like this: "Too much automation will have an overall negative impact on society because .... Automation contributes negatively (or positively) to cultural values in that ..."
- 3) **(Narrative Body)** Subsequent sections of your paper should address:
  - a) What is the role of automation in society? How is it experienced?
  - b) How does automation promote specific values and how are they expressed?
  - c) How does automation promote the formation of group or personal identity?
- 4) Close your paper out with a strong conclusion that summarizes your position.

### **English 101**

- 1) **(Thesis)** Go to the corresponding PowerPoint slide in the presentation for the essay you have selected. Examine the question around which you will develop part of your thesis. Let's use Larissa MacFarquhar's essay *The Kindest Cut* as an example. One of the questions for this essay we raised in class was should it be legal to sell one's organs, kidneys for

example to a willing buyer if there were regulations and protocol in place that guaranteed safety?

- 2) **(Thesis)** As you develop a thesis statement surrounding this subject, also consider and include in your thesis the following: Does selling kidneys contribute in an active way to positively or negatively shape cultural values? So, your thesis may look something like: “It should be legal (Or not) to sell kidneys in our society because ... Selling kidneys contributes negatively (or positively) to cultural values in that ...”
  
- 3) **(Narrative Body)** Subsequent sections of your paper should address:
  - a) How would the legal sale of kidneys in society be experienced?
  - b) How would selling kidneys promote specific values and how are they expressed?
  - c) How would selling kidneys contribute to the promotion or formation of group or personal identity?
  
- 4) Close your paper out with a strong conclusion that summarizes your position.