

## COM 112—Assignment 2

**Minimum length: three full pages (1000 words, size 12 print, double spaced)**

This assignment is designed to serve several purposes. First, it will give you the opportunity to become more familiar with services provided by the library. Second, it requires you to respond to someone else's ideas, which necessitates your understanding those ideas. Third, it will reinforce our earlier discussions concerning argumentation, a skill with which you must become familiar in a successful college career. We will discuss argumentation in class in sufficient detail to serve our needs. Finally, it will serve as a tune up for the research project—Assignment 3, including the proper presentation of MLA style. By the way, this is a good time to consider your list of possible topics for the research project. **Make a list in your notebook of those topics you consider. I want to see at least five possible topics. Yes, this is part of the assignment.** A list of topics will be attached to your final draft, and five points will be deducted if this element is missing. No, you may not turn it in later.

Write an essay inspired by the serious tone found in the articles, "Stability in Iraq: A War We Just Might Win", "The War as We Saw It", and "Why We Didn't Remove Saddam" (all found on my Web site). Note that, like short story titles, article titles are presented in quotation marks. We are reading these articles to stimulate our critical thinking concerning this issue and to have an example of the serious tone you should use when writing your essays. They will not be referenced in your essays, and you will not write about this topic. Review the list of topics on the last page of your policy statement before choosing a topic.

Your response will be controlled by an argument of your choosing, which will incorporate appropriate points of view from at least three outside sources (**all sources from library Reference materials or data bases**). **At least one of these three sources will be a scholarly source; do not use the articles listed above.** Your essay's topic must be inspired by the serious nature of the articles mentioned above. For instance, you could write about an educational topic of interest to you, issues that affect various groups in the human community, medical or social topics, or the psychological pressures on people to "fit in" rather than be individuals. Do not use the topics noted in my policy statement, unless you can sell me on a unique twist to one of those topics. **A works cited will accompany each essay, and any essay that is submitted without a works cited will receive an automatic F.** See page 440 of *A Writer's Reference* for a model works cited and pages 398-428 for details for creating an MLA Style works cited. In-text citation is explained on pages 388-398. Finally, print and actively read "Is It a Scholarly Journal?" and "Living in Sin", a model essay—both found on my Web site.

Your purpose in writing will be to create an argument that will persuade your reader that your position is valid and that you are searching for the truth. You need not prove other points of view invalid. In fact, it is usually helpful to your arguments to show that complex problems require complex solutions, which validate several points of view.

**Due dates for this assignment:**

Two copies of the peer editing draft are due at the beginning of class on **2/20/2012**.

The final draft is due at the beginning of class on **2/27/2012**.

Download Assignment 3 by 2/22/2012.

**Review the essay submission procedure handout.**