

Delicate Balance – Spring 2006

Final Paper Guidelines

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Overview

The final paper project presents you with opportunities: to select an issue of your choice to research; to write a paper; and to present your findings to the class. The research you conduct for your paper must involve substantial and critical review of scholarly literature. Use the literature to explore information about a topic that interests you. Prior to developing your thesis statement, you should frame research questions that guide your initial research. Find articles that help you to explore those questions. Once some preliminary research has been conducted, you can begin to construct your thesis statement. Additional research will then be conducted to gather evidence in support of your thesis. As you gather evidence, it may be necessary to re-frame your initial thesis statement.

Paper Organization

In general, your paper (minimum length: 15 double spaced, typed pages) should consist of three broad sections. The first section of your paper should be the introduction. In this section, you must clearly articulate a clear and concise thesis statement, which you plan to defend using evidence found in the body of the text. The introduction can also contain background information on the environmental issue you have chosen.

Essentially, the body of your paper will discuss research presented in scholarly literature that provides evidence in support of the thesis statement presented in the introduction.

The final section of your paper is the conclusion. In this section you should again refer to your thesis statement and summarize the evidence you have gathered in support of your thesis statement.

Timeline

Due on February 6 (Monday) *Project proposal.* The research proposal should contain your initial thesis statement along with the research questions used to guide your exploratory research. The main body of the proposal is a short analysis of what you are finding as you review sources of information about the topic. The proposal must also contain a list of sources you have collected to date. *Additional instructions will be provided to help you with this assignment.*

Due on March 23 (Thursday) *Full, annotated bibliography and outline.* At this stage in your research, you should have collected and reviewed all the literature you plan to use to write your final paper. Submit a complete bibliography, formatted according to APA guidelines. After each entry, you should write a sentence that summarizes the source's thesis statement and/or main finding of the source and how this enhances your understanding of your research topic. Also due is a complete outline of your final paper.

Due on April 10 (Monday) *Draft of final research paper for peer review.* A **complete first draft** of the research paper is due on this date. Your paper must contain complete in-text citations and be

accompanied by your complete bibliography. You must submit the paper and bibliography as one Word document attachment by 5:00 p.m. to both your assigned reviewer and your instructor. The peer review process is designed to provide everyone with an opportunity to give and receive quality, critical feedback on rough drafts.

Due on April 24 (Monday) *Final paper.* Your final paper and bibliography are due in class.