Essay Specs

OVERVIEW

As we conclude this semester you will hear from a series of guest speakers that are Sac State graphic design alumni. Each speaker will talk about their career path in the industry and share samples of their work. Take notes during class as we will have small quizzes on their various presentations. But also, take thorough notes as you will end up writing a paper on one of the speakers. Now I don't want you to think of this as a "recap" paper. In fact, I want you to choose 2–3 topics that really struck you during the presentation and thoughtfully discuss them. *Briefly* use the speaker's words as a jump-off point for your own. I want this paper to be 90% you and I want to see how you support your thoughts critically in your writing.

FORMATTING

The field report is to be typed, single spaced, and set in Times (or Times New Roman) at 10 point. Keep margins at one inch all around. Do not include a cover page. I want to see two *full* pages of your thoughts and findings. Write your name in the upper right hand corner of each page. Staple the pages together on the upper left hand corner. All writing should be free of typos and grammar errors. The papers will be evaluated for the above parameters BEFORE I read them for content, so be sure to check your work carefully. Any oversights in these specifications can limit a paper's final grade to a *C*- or less.

CONTENT

Once the formatting has been reviewed, I will check the paper for content. Be sure to address 2–3 topics in your paper; give yourself enough space to cover each topic thoughtfully. I really want to read your thoughts about the subjects you discuss. **I'm not looking for a blow-by-blow description of what the guest speaker said. I'm looking to see how you express your thinking in this paper.** Can you relate information in one context to another? Can you make use of metaphors, analogies and personal anecdotes to elaborate on the subjects you discuss? This is your time to shine as a critical thinker and offer your thoughtful insights on what you heard. Be candid in your thoughts, but also maintain professionalism in your voice. If the aforementioned formatting requirements have been met, the paper's content will determine if it is in the *A,B* or *C* range.

SAMPLE

A superior paper displays detail in following the project's specified formatting, but also demonstrates the expository and analytical skills of the writer. To get a feel for what I am looking for, read the writing sample on the second page of this document.

 $\mathsf{F}\;\mathsf{E}\;\mathsf{E}\;\mathsf{D}\;\mathsf{B}\;\mathsf{A}\;\mathsf{C}\;\mathsf{K}$

Though not required, I will review and give feedback on any *completed* rough drafts received on the Monday before Thanksgiving break. This draft should look as close to the final as possible, from formatting to spelling/grammar. I will return rough drafts on the Monday we return from break.

DEADLINE

Final papers must be turned in during the final exam period. NO CREDIT will be awarded for late papers. No exceptions.