

Writing 109HP: Essay One Options

Option One: The Medical Issue Analysis

For the Medical Issue Analysis, you need to research and report on a medical problem, issue, or recent debate. This can include a disease or a larger social (public health) issue. You need to include research on the disease or problem, what is currently being done to treat or alleviate the problem, and suggestions for what could be improved. You should be critical and make arguments in this essay, but there should be a background in which you offer facts and description regarding the issue or disease. I would suggest picking something close to your chosen field of study.

Some possible topics: 1) A controversial AIDS treatment 2) Needle donation programs for addicts 3) Racial inequality in healthcare (in the context of Covid-19 and Black Lives Matter, for example) 4) Public health policies related to Covid-19 5) Theories about a mystery disease and your take on it 6) Rhetorical analysis of the anti-vaccine movement

You will need to identify definitions, background information, and relevant facts so that your reader is prepared to read the more analytical and argumentative parts of your paper. You will need to use a minimum of five credible outside sources. You should use APA format for this essay, which will be 6-8 pages (not including cover page, abstract, and references).

Option Two: The Medical Humanities Essay

For the Medical Humanities Essay, you can analyze a text that is generally categorized in the humanities through a medical lens (such as a film or novel), or you can analyze philosophical books written by patients or doctors. You need to do outside research to help enrich your analysis and make connections to both humanities scholarship and medical theories.

Some possible texts: 1) Atul Gawande's books (drawing from other sources for comparison) 2) *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* 3) A book by Oliver Sacks 4) Kathlyn Conway's *Beyond Words: Illness and the Limits of Expression* 5) "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman 6) A Nathaniel Hawthorne novel or short stories that include medical issues or doctors 7) The show *The Big C* (focusing on specific episodes or moments)

You will need to weave in at least two other sources into your analysis. If you are analyzing a non-fictional text, you can bring in other perspectives to compare or critique the primary text. If you are analyzing fiction, you can bring in literary criticism or medical theory to read the text more deeply. The primary text will be the focus, however, and I expect evidence of close reading. This essay must be 6-8 pages (with no cover page and not including the Works Cited page), and must be in MLA format.