

*Anthony T. Atkins*  
*English 314: Writing & Technology*  
*Technology Research Essay*

### **Goals/Purpose**

English 314 focuses on learning about communication technologies, using software that facilitates usable design of information, and experimenting with alternate ways of treating textual and visual elements within communications. As a way to begin our exploration of communication technologies and to reinforce the importance of research and traditional research writing, your first assignment requires that you investigate/research any facet of communication technologies. We will discuss examples of possible projects over the next few class meetings.

### **Guidelines**

Like all assignments for this course there are specific guidelines of which you should adhere. Choose an appropriate topic (all topics should be approved by the instructor), investigate the issues or claims surrounding the topic, explain your position, and use research to both articulate your position and to explain other issues surrounding the topic. Below is a basic structure you might consider.

### **Introduction**

Construct an introduction that clearly states the topic you plan to discuss, why it is important, and who is involved in the conversation surrounding the topic. You should also briefly state your position on the topic—use good transitions to move you from subject/paragraph to paragraph.

### **Body**

In the body of the essay, you want to explain the issue thoroughly, using good logic, and writing skills (avoid major writing errors and using MLA format incorrectly). State clearly and in detail your position using research that supports your position on the issue. 5 sources for this essay should be sufficient. Be careful not to “drop-quote” (be sure to introduce your quotes within the text).

### **Conclusion**

In the conclusion be sure to remind readers of the topic and its importance. You should restate carefully and differently your claim or position surrounding the topic and leave readers remembering your good ideas.

### **Notes/Reminders**

One way to do well on this assignment is to follow guidelines. First, be certain you have access to MLA (it’s online!) and adhere to in-text citation format and construct a works cited page properly. Be sure your essay is free from major writing errors. Avoid misspelled words, typographical errors, and late work. Remember that you must participate in peer editing (in our class) to receive an A on this project. Another possible challenge is using proper sources. Essays that use odd sources of information will not do as well as essays that consider scholarly journals—scholarly websites (sponsored by

universities -.edu- or websites sponsored by known organizations or universities). You should use at least 5 sources—at least 3 of those sources should come from scholarly journals. You may use 2 good websites to support your information. If a website or source is in question, I will simply check it and if I am unable to locate it, the source will not “count” as one of your 5.

### **Submission**

You will submit all cited materials in hard copy (print the webpage where you quoted the source or copy the pages you cited from the journal). You will email a rough draft when due, and you will email the final draft using Technology Research Essay as the subject line and you will save the file as your lastname.doc. I will give specific instructions for emailing the rough draft in class. Use Times New Roman and nothing larger than 12pt font.

### **Grades**

Lose a letter grade:

- Submit essay late
- Neglect to participate in peer editing session
- Use MLA incorrectly
- Neglect to submit cited materials (please paper clip or staple the sources in order of use/appearance in the essay)

Lose 1/3 letter grade:

- Emailed in format other than Microsoft Word
- Emailed with the wrong subject line
- Emailed with the wrong file name