Anthony T. Atkins
English 496: Writing with Web 2.0
Research Essay | 20%

Goals/Purpose
This English 496 focuses on learning about Web 2.0 tools (blogs, wikis, and social networking sites, for example) as ways of professional, cultural, and social communication. By experimenting with usable design of information, and experimenting with alternate ways of treating textual and visual elements within communications, users of these technologies should know and understand the various aspects of those tools, for example, how they work, privacy/disclaimer statements, theories of use, and the changing nature/s of literacy, communication . . . As a way to begin our exploration of images, persuasion, and to reinforce the importance of research and traditional research writing, this assignment requires that you investigate/research any facet of Web 2.0 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. No two people will be allowed to research the same topic. All MLA guidelines will apply. We will discuss MLA minimally in this class because I expect you to know MLA very well by this time (Senior Seminar). Use resources on the website to help you. Think hard about this project. It weighs 20% of your final grade and you maybe able to use it as your writing sample for grad school or for some other job. It is the last paper you will write before graduation. Please exhibit care and caution when submitting the assignment (watch for broken sentences, typos, and wrong words). Your essay should flow together (use transitions to make that happen). Please see the grading rubric at the bottom of this document to see how this project will be evaluated.

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. In short, introduce the reader to the topic of the essay and explain what aspects of each topic you plan to address.

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). Be careful not to "drop-quote" (be sure to introduce your quotes within the text). Integrate quotes and ideas properly and carefully.

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 (do not miss class this day). 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 five credible sources. 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 five. Again, see grading rubric at the bottom.

Submission
We will post drafts and use a technology to peer edit them in class. In the event something is down or broken you are required to bring a hard copy of your draft on peer edit day (see the schedule for due dates).

Grading Rubric (please note that I apply all guidelines to figure your grade).

Submitted on time (should be one document). Please submit your final research paper via email: atkinsa@uncw.edu. Subject of email is "ENG 496 Research Paper"	1/3 of letter
Must be in Microsoft Word format (document should be named "yourlastname.doc")	Not fun—please do not do this.
Must be a Web 2.0 focused topic (check with me if you are not sure).	1/3 letter
Must be no less than seven pages (do not go over eight pages or lose the 1/3 letter as well). Page length does not include works cited page.	1/3 letter
Writer did not take a clear position on the issue. Did not make a claim or have a main point to the essay or that main point is ambiguous.	1/3 letter
Must have at least five **good** sources.	1/3 letter
Writer does not use strong transitions between paragraphs or sections.	
Bad use of sources (the source or quotation does not work with the example used). More than two of these instances.	1/3
More than one drop-quote.	1/3 letter
More than four Typos and/or misused words.	1/3 letter
Did not block quote a quotation that is more than four typed lines.	1/3 letter (depends on nature of issue here)
Poor writing, bad logic, sentence structure.	1/3 letter
Works Cited (no more than three citation mistakes—includes in-text-parenthetical citations).	1/3 letter
Plagiarism or cheating (yes, we have technologies to analyze essays and sources).	Failure of assignment (at minimum)

Did not peer edit partner's rough draft properly or at all.	1/3 letter
	A 1/3 letter means that if you were to make a B+ but lose 1/3 of a letter grade, your final grade would be a B. Many of these are just simple directions and instructions. Please follow them.

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