

## Multiple Source Essay #2

In this second MSE, you will practice (and perfect!) your skills of synthesis, citation, and critical thinking. While the idea is similar to the MSE #1, there are different requirements for this essay. It will get you closer to being prepared to write your final researched essay later on.

### Due Dates:

Exploratory Draft—	Wednesday, Feb. 21
Values Exploration Sheet—	Monday, Feb. 26
First Draft—	Wednesday, Feb. 28
Peer Review Summary—	Friday, Mar. 2
Second Draft—	Monday, Mar. 26
Revised Draft (Optional) —	Wednesday, Apr. 4

**Topics:** You are free to choose any topic inspired by the readings we have done for homework since the last unit. Look at the end of each reading and their chapters to get some essay topic ideas. While you are free to choose any topic, remember that you must make your thesis debatable, just like the last essay.

**Possible Prompts:** You can respond to any of these topics to focus your essay, or choose one not mentioned:

*Should obesity be regarded as a social problem or a medical condition? What is the significance of identifying obesity as one rather than the other? How does this change our attitudes or assumptions about obesity if we identified it this way?*

*Hillel Schwartz notes that American culture promotes a “despotism of slenderness.” Do you agree this is true? Do you believe slenderness is despotic? Who is the despot (the person, group, or concept that controls our belief)? Use the articles in this chapter to argue for or against the existence of a cultural “despotism of slenderness.”*

*Who or what is to blame for the obesity epidemic? Or is concentrating on “blaming” someone/something taking our attention away from the problem?*

*Do you believe gastric-bypass surgery should be considered cosmetic surgery, or do you think it is medically necessary? When should it be used, and who should be able to have it? Should health insurance companies cover the surgery, or should it come out of the patient’s pocket, like other cosmetic surgeries?*

*Propose a solution for the millions of children, men, and women who stress about their weight, and who may become anorexic/bulimic. See the website <http://www.campaignforrealbeauty.com> for inspiration.*

**Page Length:** 4-6 pages (at least four full pages, not including Works Cited)

**Sources:** Last time, you could only use sources from the book. For this essay, you are allowed to use some outside sources, in preparation for your researched essay (which will have all outside sources). In this essay, **you are required to use at least 5 different sources, but using as many as 7 is fine. At least three sources must come from WARAC sources, and at least one should be an outside source.**

In this essay, you will be free to quote, paraphrase, and summarize as you see fit. But remember, sometimes paraphrases work better than a direct quote, and vice versa.

**The Essay:** Other than source requirements, topic, and page length, this is the same type of essay as MSE #1. Your thesis will be debatable (a reasonable person could argue against it), you will demonstrate synthesis of sources in each of your major points, you will include counterargument, as well as show me you know how to cite sources according to MLA format in text as well as on the Works Cited page.

Once again, you do not have to just argue your position in this essay. You may choose to speculate about the causes of a trend or phenomenon, or propose a solution to some problem.

**An Option:** You may choose, depending on your topic, to conduct a survey or interview. This would replace one of your (outside) sources, and would be cited in MLA format. This is a fun and interesting way to get the information you need. More information about regulations for this is found in your 112 Portfolio folder in the packet “Field Research Regulations.”

**Evaluation:** The final draft of this essay will be given a letter grade, as explained in the Achievement Requirements for this class. **This essay is revisable.**

*Grade Breakdown:*

Exploratory Draft	= 5 pts.
Values Exploration Sheet	= 2.5 pts.
First Draft	= 10 pts.
Peer Review Feedback	= 2.5 pts.
Second Draft	= 75 pts.
	-----
Total	= 100 pts.

**A = 100-90**

**B = 89-80**

**C = 79-70**

**NP = less than 70**

(Second Draft Grading: A = 75-68; B = 67-60; C = 59-53; NP = less than 53)

**Things to Remember for the MSE #2:**

- Has a clear, debatable thesis—one that does not merely state a topic
- It is an argumentative paper—its purpose is not just to inform.
- It is organized according to main points, not sources.
- It is sufficiently developed.
- Doesn't assume the reader is familiar with the issues or sources—it gives good introductions to issues and lead-ins and analyses of sources.
- Sources are adequately introduced—no floating quotes.
- Includes sufficient counterargument.
- Uses paraphrases and summaries when needed, and quotes only when you can't say it any better yourself.
- Reads clearly, logically, smoothly, and coherently—no ranting or raving.
- Sources do not dominate your essay.
- Has correct MLA documentation and Works Cited page.
- Shows true synthesis and integration of sources into the paper.

**Good Luck! Have Fun!**