

Exploratory “Draft” for the Multiple Source Essay #1

To get a good understanding of what your topic is and exactly what your sources have to do with it, I would like you to write 2-3 pages of what I call an “exploratory draft.” This in no way resembles a first draft of your essay, instead, this is written evidence to show me you have thought out your audience, purpose, and different viewpoints of your chosen topic. This is less formal writing—a kind of prewriting—but please take it just as seriously as a rough draft or final draft. It’s best to figure all this stuff out now, because believe me, you don’t want to be in front of your computer at 4 am the night before the second draft is due without a clue as to what your counterargument should be.

This exploratory draft is due by Monday, January 29—although you may choose to hand it in as early as you wish (see “Handing it In,” below)

This draft should encompass four sections:

1. **Dialogue** (at least one page): This section is just as it sounds; write a dialogue between two people on your topic. One person will argue for the topic, and one will argue against. Here’s a basic format:

Bob: I believe it’s fine to hide your real identity online. Look at Turkle’s essay—she argues it’s actually a good thing.

Sue: I don’t agree with you, Bob. Think about all the people you could hurt with your lies online! Remember Lewis’s essay on that 15-year-old lawyer?

Bob: But were people really hurt by that? (etc...)

Bring in sources for the characters to quote wherever applicable. This will form the basis for your argument and counterargument. Even if your essay is not an “arguing a position,” knowing the basic pros and cons of your topic is essential to a good essay.

2. **Working Thesis** (one sentence): Just as it sounds, give me a sense of what you think your claim is right now (you can change it later on)—make sure it’s debatable.

3. **Audience Awareness** (at least ½ page): In this section, freewrite on who you intend your audience to be. Who would be interested in what you have to say (besides me, of course)? Think about groups of people who would support your thesis as well as those groups who would argue against it. You may address more than one audience here. Describe the audience(s). Tell me about their level of expertise in the subject, if they are in a position to act (if your paper proposes a solution), etc. Where might I expect to find your paper if it was published? *The New York Times*? The Modern Language Association’s annual convention? *Playboy*?

4. **Purpose** (at least ½ page): Freewrite here to explore your purpose. Why are you writing this essay (other than because I tell you to)? What do you want your readers to get from this essay? What reasoning will you use to achieve your goal? What counterarguments will you have to address?

Handing it In: You can turn this in via our BlackBoard course site—look for the appropriate discussion board forum and post it there either as an attachment or in the body of a posting—and I will give you feedback.

Questions? Concerns? Feel free to contact me via phone (372-9551) or email (efleitz@bgsu.edu) at any time and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.