

Essay 3

Multimodal Final Research Project: *Exploring Education*



For your final project, you will explore a topic connected to **education**—its purpose, challenges, experiences, or impact. Education shapes every part of our lives, from how we think and communicate to how we understand our communities and ourselves.

Your goal is to create a **multimodal argument** that makes a meaningful claim about some aspect of education. You'll use **research, analysis, and creative composition** to communicate your ideas to an audience of your choosing.

Your thesis statement will make an argument about any aspect of education. You can choose a specific demographic of students to focus on such as immigrants, first-generation students, low-income students, student athletes, etc. You can explore the value of education, the challenges, its disparities, its impact on identity and growth, or the difference in the quality of education for specific students- basically you can talk about anything related to education. The topic you choose should be meaningful or personally relevant in your life.

The prompt is broad on purpose for everyone to approach this essay in a number of unique ways. **Your thesis statement should be argumentative and supported by research.**

Your Task

Create a **multimodal composition** that:

- Presents a **clear argument or central claim** about an aspect of education.
 - Uses **evidence and/or research** to support your ideas.
 - Communicates your message through **multiple modes** (written, visual, audio, or interactive).
 - Demonstrates **rhetorical awareness**—considering your purpose, audience, and medium.
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Format Options

Choose one of the following (or propose your own idea):

- **Video essay** or short documentary (5 minutes)
 - **Podcast or audio story** (5–7 minutes)
 - **Digital photo essay** or visual collage with captions and commentary
 - **Website, blog, or digital zine** combining text, visuals, and links
 - **Written essay** enhanced with multimodal elements (images, infographics, or audio)
 - **Spoken word or performance piece** recorded and contextualized with research
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Written Component: Reflective Statement (1-2 pages)

Along with your multimodal piece, include a reflection that:

- Explains your **purpose, audience, and central argument**.
- Describes how your use of **different modes** (text, visuals, sound, etc.) strengthens your message.
- Connects your project to **what you've learned about writing, communication, and analysis** in this course.

- Reflects on the process—what you discovered, struggled with, or found meaningful.
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Evaluation Criteria

You'll be assessed on:

- **Develop a clear and original argument about any aspect of education**
- **Integrate research and credible evidence effectively**
- **Purposeful multimodal choices** (how your design and medium support your argument)
- **Organization and coherence** of your final piece
- **Reflect critically** on your learning process in the written statement.

Possible Avenues of Inquiry

You can focus on any area that interests you, such as:

- Access and equity in education
- First-generation or immigrant student experiences
- Mental health and academic pressure
- Language, identity, and belonging in school
- The value of college vs. alternative paths
- Technology and online learning
- The role of teachers and mentors
- Educational reform or classroom culture
- Learning styles or self-education
- Personal growth through education
- Resources available for students with learning disabilities

- Student Athletes
- Education perception

These are starting points—feel free to define your own angle or question about education.

While this assignment will ask for the inclusion of scholarly articles/texts, it will not be limited to them. For this assignment, you are encouraged to also tap into sources that may not be considered “academic,” but that are coming from a place of expertise/knowledge of the subject. For example, an interview can count towards a source.

To prepare for this assignment, please:

- Review our library guide and our class notes to help you understand
 - How to find sources;
 - How to evaluate sources;
 - How to use sources to support *your* ideas (responsibly); and
 - What plagiarism is, how to avoid it, and why it matters
- Meet with me and our librarian during your research process
 - You can meet with a librarian to learn how to start the research process
 - Use the “Chat with a Librarian” function
 - Anytime you have a question about the research component of the assignment!

You will use a total of 5 sources for this assignment

- 2-3 need to be scholarly sources from the MCC library database
- Other Source Options: Tara J. Yosso’s Cultural Wealth, *A Dream Called Home* by Reyna Grande

Classroom Showcase: For our final class meeting during finals week, we will have a classroom showcase where all students will briefly share their projects.

Final Project due: December 11 at 9 am