ENGLISH 1A (LANKFORD) ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS OVERVIEW

ESSAY FORMAT INSTRUCTIONS for all three essays
Essay Length: Minimum 2000 words (at least four double-spaced typed pages); no maximum
Typed Format: See Quick Access pages 59-64 for a model essay format - be sure to include page #s
Thesis Format: A thesis statement (may be up to 4 sentences long!) must be highlighted on page one.

ESSAY #1 ASSIGNMENT for Catfish and Mandala: THE TURNING POINT
Due: Friday, 1/28 at the beginning of class
MLA Format: punctuate all page number citations as follows: "      " (Pham 32).
"Works Cited" page optional for this assignment—not required.
Topic: Identify one specific page in the book where author Andrew Pham’s life changed forever - a "turning point" in his story, then compare/contrast Pham’s experience with a "turning point" experience in your own life. Discuss/defend your analysis of Pham’s turning point in detail. How exactly did he change? Why? Your thesis should identify what changed in Pham’s life (his turning point), what changed in your life (your turning point), and how those changes fit together. At least 50% of your essay should focus on Catfish and Mandala specifically. Use creative techniques from Top Ten Tips to help your own story come alive. ALTERNATIVE CHOICE: If you prefer not to write about your own experiences, simply continue to analyze Pham’s turning point throughout your essay.

ESSAY #2 ASSIGNMENT for Fast Food Nation: HOW FAST FOOD AFFECTS YOU
Due: Thursday 2/25 at the beginning of class
MLA Format: MLA in-text citations required in this format: "           " (Schlosser 112).
Separate "Works Cited" Page with correct entries required. For example:


For more on MLA format, see Quick Access pages 180-211 or visit Easybib.com or Noodletools.com or webster.commnet.edu/mla/books.shtml#parts
Topic: Discuss one specific way in which fast food has directly affected you or people whom you know personally (family, friends, coworkers, or students). First discuss Schlosser’s views on the subject in Fast Food Nation, being careful to summarize his argument accurately. Then agree, disagree, or go beyond Schlosser’s analysis using your own additional research from books, magazines, newspapers, interviews, field trips, library and/or internet sources to support your opinions. Your "Works Cited" page must include at least three reputable text/print sources in addition to Fast Food Nation. Remember that you may choose to write about topics Schlosser ignores, such as new healthy fast food options, chicken farming, hog farming, genetically modified foods, or even the global cattle industry's impact on global warming (those cow burps can be catastrophic).

ESSAY #3 for Earth Odyssey: UPDATING EARTH ODYSSEY
Due: Friday, 3/25 at the beginning of class
MLA Format: Formal MLA in-text page citations plus complete "Works Cited" page required
Topic: Update author Mark Hertsgaard's research -- focusing your analysis on just one topic and/or chapter from the book Earth Odyssey. For example, what new developments in the nuclear power/nuclear weapons fields have occurred since Hertsgaard's visit to Russia fourteen years ago? Or how do his predictions compare with those in the film The Day After Tomorrow? Is China's air pollution better now, or worse than Hertsgaard found it? What do you think the future condition of the human race will be in the next 100 years based on your own research? Your "Works Cited" page must include at least three print/internet sources in addition to Hertsgaard’s Earth Odyssey—but you should also make sure to include plenty of quotes from Hertsgaard in your discussion.