

English 1A: Critical Thinking & Writing 1, Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Jackie Hendricks

Paper #3: Be a hero project

For this project, you will choose an issue to both write on and educate your peers about so you can be a hero for that issue. This is a group project (groups of 2-5), BUT you will do the writing individually. Some possible topics might include:

- A non-profit organization, charity, or religious group that serves people in need
- An on-campus group interested in helping others
- An issue that needs more attention and help from the general public

Once you choose a topic, you'll educate yourself as much as you can. Learn about the non-profit, charity, group, or issue by looking at their website, reading articles from reliable news sources, and researching the people they help (or who need help). [NB: This is basically the only time I'll be ok with you Googling for research.]

You must also design a project to raise awareness about your topic. This should include both a social media and an on-campus element. On campus, you can table at Benson, give a presentation to a class (not our CTW class) or campus group, design an informal activity for your RLC (like a volunteering excursion), create a poster for your residence hall door or somewhere on your floor (depending on your RLC's rules), etc. On social media, you can create a custom Snapchat story, tweet using a topic-related hashtag, make a YouTube video, create an Instagram story, etc.

There are two pieces of writing that accompany this project. First, you will write a 6-8 page paper about your topic that is argument based (this is NOT a report), explaining to the reader why this group, organization, or issue requires attention. In the body of the paper, you should explain/describe your topic, making sure to use the sources you found as supporting evidence. You should also include your plan for raising awareness about your topic, and briefly discuss your experience educating about your topic (you'll go into greater depth in your blog post - see below). You should also include your own personal stake in the issue, group, or organization - why are you drawn to this issue? What effect has learning about it and educating others had on you and your personal beliefs? What will you do in the future differently because of this project?

The second piece of writing is a blog post. In your post (min. 500 words), you'll document your experience raising awareness about your topic. Include multimedia that shows both your on-campus work and your social media outreach. You should also reflect briefly on the outcome (or perceived outcome) of your work - have you changed anyone's mind about an issue? Have you

gotten more people to help an organization? Have you helped create new friendships or community bonds?

Topics/projects must be determined by **Monday, October 30** in class.

Drafts (both of the paper and blog post) are due **Friday, November 10** before class (copy the link to your post in the submission comments).

Final papers and blog posts are due **Friday, November 17** (copy the link to your post in the submission comments).

Please submit your papers by uploading them to our Camino site.

Paper Requirements:

- 6-8 pages (meaning, at minimum, your paper must go to the bottom of page 6), double-spaced, Times New Roman font, page numbers, and standard margins.
- A complex, sophisticated thesis that includes a “so what” factor.
- A title that reflects the thesis of your paper.
- Evidence that supports your thesis and topic sentences.
- At least two supporting sources.
- Sources should be cited correctly, including parenthetical in-text citations and a list of works cited at the end.
- A focused and thoughtful introduction and conclusion.
- The organization of your paper should be cohesive and logical.
- Use proper grammar, mechanics, and spelling.

Blog Post Requirements:

- At least 500 words.
- Multimedia showing both your on-campus and social media awareness efforts.
- A title that reflects your project.
- Your post should be cohesive, focused, and organized.
- Use proper grammar, mechanics, and spelling.