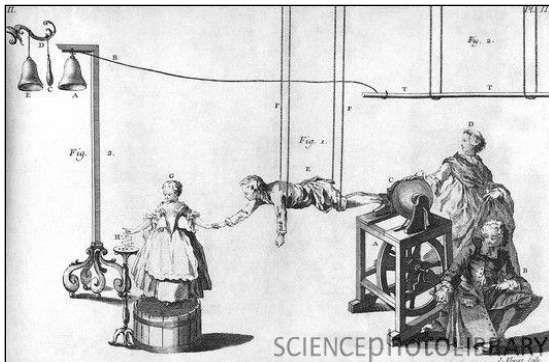


**CTW 2 Honors: Communities & Rhetorics**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Dr. Robin Tremblay-McGaw**

“The term *essai* was coined by Michel Montaigne, a sixteenth-century Frenchman; in French, it means ‘to attempt’ or ‘to try.’ For Montaigne and the essayists who follow his tradition, the essay is less an opportunity *to prove* something than an attempt *to find out*. An essay is often exploratory rather than argumentative, testing the truth of an idea or attempting to discover what might be true.” –Bruce Ballinger *The Curious Researcher*



Credit: [SCIENCE, INDUSTRY & BUSINESS LIBRARY/NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY](#)

**Caption:** Static electricity experiments, historical artwork. Turning the wheel at lower right creates a charge on the man on the trapeze, which he passes to the girl on the wooden (non-conducting) block. She is observing the effects on a pile of small flakes. This illustration is from *Recueil de Traites sur l'Electricite, Traduits de l'Allemand & de l'Anglois, seconde partie*, published in 1748.

**Essay #2 Investigation/Research Essay (6-8 pages; 1800-2400 words)**

- **An Investigation/Research essay is a research-based essay about something that interests you personally.** In this essay, you should investigate an important topic, something you feel compelled to puzzle out or explore or learn more about. Rather than making an argument, you will follow the model of Montaigne; that is, you will challenge yourself to approach the essay as an **open, questioning form of writing**, one that engages concerns that matter to you personally, and requires that you do further investigation (in *thinking* as well as *research*) to fully explore your topic. This will require you to consult a small number of appropriate resources and to, at least for a while, “suspend judgment and tolerate ambiguity” since, as Bruce Ballinger notes, “new knowledge or perspectives are made through the back and forth of conversation in which the writer assumes at least two seemingly contrary roles: believer and doubter, generator and judge” (10). For this essay, rather than have a thesis, your essay will be controlled by a compelling question.
- You must also approach your topic and question via at least two *contexts*. These might include different academic or lay disciplines. For example, you might approach your topic from a psychological and business context, or via art history and ethics, or by way of popular TV shows and philosophy. The contexts you choose will in part be dictated by your question, interests, and topic!
- Given the nature of this Investigative/Research essay, you will want to include your personal experience in the form of anecdotes and/or a brief narrative, etc.
- Depending on your topic, you may find it useful to interview someone or conduct your own survey.
- As always, you must properly use and cite quotes, composing an investigative research essay that is appropriate in structure, tone, and logic for a specific

audience. You will want to consider what tone and diction is most effective for your purpose and audience

*This essay will serve as the foundation upon which you will build your Final Multimodal Investigation & Research Project.*

**The Investigative/Research Essay will include:**

- An engaging and original title;
- An introductory paragraph that takes into account your **audience** and appropriately establishes the relevance of and context and reason for your interest in your topic;
- **a clear motivating question or concern**, followed by body paragraphs that coherently organize and develop an investigation appropriate to your topic;
- a thoughtful and interesting conclusion that does more than merely state previous information;
- appropriate and accurate research;
- an approach to your topic and question by way of at least **two contexts**;
- serious and sustained writing, thinking, investigation and engagement with your research question;
- correct grammar and syntax; fluid, interesting prose!
- professional formatting and citation, including adherence to MLA style guidelines;
- attention to the rhetorical situation of your writing; in other words, conscious attention to ethos, logos, pathos, kairos, and more!

It is not necessary, but you may wish to include:

- Compelling and pertinent graphics
- An interesting epigraph in the form of a quotation

**Due Dates for Investigation/Research Essay:**

- **Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**. Completed Three Column Worksheet due; bring it to the Library session.
- **Monday May 15<sup>th</sup>: Note-taking for 3 sources using two different styles.**
- **Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>: due your annotated bibliography.** The bibliography should include a minimum of **5 sources** of at least **three different types** of materials (newspaper, magazine or journal articles, books, primary sources, encyclopedias, blogs and websites, etc.). Your annotation for each entry **must** include full citation information in MLA style, a brief paragraph that summarizes the source's main argument or claim, followed by a final brief paragraph assessing the value of this source. While you may consult *Wikipedia* as a source for finding other resources (through checking references, other sources and bibliographies that *Wikipedia* entries often include), you may **NOT** use a *Wikipedia* entry on your annotated bibliography.
- **Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>: Draft of investigative/research paper due (4-6 pages). Bring 3 copies** to class and upload one to Camino..
- **Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>: Final Investigation/Research Essay due**

**Academic Integrity Pledge:** Santa Clara University is implementing an Academic Integrity pledge designed to deepen the understanding of and commitment to honesty and academic integrity.

The Academic Integrity Pledge states:

*"I am committed to being a person of integrity. I pledge, as a member of the Santa Clara University community, to abide by and uphold the standards of academic integrity contained in the Student Conduct Code."*

I ask that you affirm this pledge and apply these principles to your work in this class. **Paste this statement at the end of your essay.**