

ENGL 2000 / SECTION XXX  
**EXPLORATORY ESSAY**

**Important Dates:**

XX/XX Peer Editing; bring two peer forms off Moodle & two rough drafts  
XX/XX Project III Portfolio due at the start of class

**Objectives:**

- To explore the issue by working through the stasis questions
- To develop effective rhetorical appeals in explaining your research topic
- To integrate current, reliable primary and secondary sources into your explanation

**The Assignment:**

Drawing from your research and readings for the Annotated Bibliography, you are to now write an essay in which you explore and explain your topic. If you started out very broadly for the Annotated Bibliography, you should narrow your focus for this assignment. For example, if your bibliography included sources addressing censorship in general, you may now want to focus on censorship on the Internet or the airwaves or perhaps a college campus. You are again writing to the campus community, from the persona of an informed college student who is engaged in discussion on the topic. You are NOT arguing for a certain course of action; your purpose is to present a clear, objective discussion of the issue. You should address what the topic is, why it matters, and what people are saying and doing about it.

Follow these guidelines as you draft the essay:

- The introduction should pinpoint the issue and context ; draw the reader into the discussion; and forecast the body of the essay.
- The body paragraphs should summarize and explain what you found in your research including examples, causes, effects, different perspectives on the issue...
- The discussion should be unified with clear topic sentences and smooth transitions.
- The conclusion should summarize what you learned from your research and where you plan to go for the policy argument.
- **You must cite at least three – but no more than six – outside sources.** One of the three can be an interview. (If you cite more than the minimum of three, you may include two interviews.) Aim for around 1000-1200 words.
- Follow MLA format, including a Works Cited page.

**Portfolio Requirements:**

Left Pocket, from top to bottom: Two peer forms stapled to drafts; ALL SOURCES CITED IN THE PAPER, INCLUDING PRINTOUTS OF ARTICLES AND INTERVIEW NOTES. Be sure to highlight the information on your printouts that you cited.

Right Pocket: Exploratory Essay, Unstapled