

## Exploratory Essay Assignment

This is one of my 2 favorite papers for this class. As we continue to explore research, for this assignment, you will take your inquiry one step further and write a paper that responds to the prompt:

What is the root cause of a significant issue?

Your job is to explore the history and the origins of whatever issue you're looking at. You will also need to consider how this issue continues to be a problem. Think of this as a few parts:

- Your research on how the problem is traditionally defined
- Your research on the history of whatever problem you are exploring
- What are the proxy OR extending problems (unintended consequences) that come as a result of the root problem
- How and why it remains a problem

*This must be a potentially solvable problem, as paper 4 is attempting to do just that. As you do your research, you might bank some sources for paper 4, where you are going to try to solve the problem reasonably.*

### Requirements:

1. You must follow these citation minimums:
  - a. 8 sources (minimum)
  - b. 4 of those sources need to be researched, not just commentary, on your topic
2. You must submit an **annotated bibliography** as a part of your Final Draft (we will talk about this after the break)
  - a. Must be done for **ALL** sources
3. 4 (full)-5 pages in length, proper MLA format
4. Submitted on Google Classroom

You will complete a pre-write, a conference, and a final draft as part of this writing process. Your work will be assessed on the ACC rubric we have been using.

### **20 total points, 20% of your overall grade**

- **15% from the paper**
- **5% from the annotated bibliography**

Annotated Bibliography Draft	October 27	2
Draft	November 3	2
Paper #3 - Exploratory & Bib	November 7	20

## Some Ideas

1. The decline in academic performance in American schools
2. Book banning and censorship
3. Political systems & Past/Present governments
4. Political polarization
5. Geo-politics and/or global conflicts
6. Increased levels of: Depression/Anxiety, self-harm, other mental health issues
7. Mass shootings
8. Divisive populations
9. Population collapse
10. Inability to debate and have deep discussions
11. Ethics & Morality
12. The problem of Evil
13. Opting for simple solutions for complex problems
14. Financial markets
15. Cost of living
16. Diminishing markets/global trade
17. Open borders/closed borders
18. Failing countries, businesses, organizations: should they be saved? Can they be saved?
19. International intervention
20. Cultural clashes
21. Destructive/Toxic relationships
22. Unoriginal storytelling - This could be books, movies, TV/streaming shows
23. Distrust in Institutions
24. Personal satisfaction/happiness
25. Too big of government OR Too small of government
26. Problems within society
27. Relationships
28. What is something we're not talking about, but should be?