

**ENG 102 – Paper #1, Due Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**2-4 pages (700 word minimum)**

**Times New Roman (12 pt. font), double-spaced, single-sided, normal margins**

The short description of the paper is that you will use ethnographic (hands-on) research about a topic of relevance to our class and write a short argumentative analysis of the data that you collect that comes to and presents new conclusions about the topic. I know that is a very foggy and confusing explanation, so let me explain in more detail.

1) **The first thing to do is come up with the issue that relates to our class.** It can be an issue about protest (current protest movements, for example, or protest about the war in Iraq). It can also be more loosely tied to this class (some issue that has come up in our discussions of justice and our responsibilities in society or about women's lives and feminism in America).

**It is crucial that you choose an issue and line of questioning that has potential to lead to new thoughts.** Asking 20 people "Do you agree with capital punishment?" is not going to give you much to work with. Start early. If you aren't gathering promising material, think about how you might alter the subject or the type of questions you ask to elicit more interesting results. Also, don't choose questions that you feel that you already know how most people will answer; choose questions that you have no idea how the majority of your interviewees will respond to.

2) After coming up with a promising topic, then **think about your approach to researching this topic.**

- Think about what questions you might ask, or angles to examine topic – not only how you are going to gather information, but what you hope to get out of this information.
- Decide if you want to conduct surveys, or longer interviews (presumably with fewer subjects), do you want to find and talk with experts in the field (at UT or elsewhere), use email correspondence for part of your information gathering (if so, who will you send your email to?).
- Think of looking for trends in how different groups might answer these questions (the difference between people at UT and people in your home town, or differences between genders, or differences between generations, etc.). Look for these divisions in your data, but also think about them as you are forming your questions.
- **You should have no research except for that which you conduct yourself. Don't look on the web, and don't do any library research for this paper.**

At this point, you are still collecting information. It is fine if you don't have an argument about this stuff at this point, as long as you feel like you are collecting valuable data.

**(see the back of the page)**

3) **Analyze this data**, developing your debatable argument about this collection of information. What are the assumptions behind the comments? How can you account for some of the differences in perspective? What can we learn from seeing a comparison of these interviews? What do they say about our society and/or the issue you are exploring?

4) Write a concise, focused, and well-supported argumentative essay that presents and emphasizes your findings (your ideas, your analysis, your interpretation of the material). **I don't want a report on the data; I want an analysis of it.** The assignment says that this paper is 2-4 pages, but I doubt that you can adequately cover the subject in the minimum, at least not very often.