

Essay 3: Surfacing Subcultures

DUE [day of the week, date, & time], [point value]

The **purpose** of this assignment is to write a college-level, thesis-driven research essay that addresses an opposing or alternative viewpoint, and incorporates scholarly research to build credibility in your argument.

You will practice the following **skills** in this assignment:

- summarize relevant points
- craft and defend an argument about a social community
- address a counterargument in the thesis and a body paragraph
- expanding on discussion points to write a longer work
- use online databases to find scholarly journal articles
- cite scholarly journal articles in MLA or APA format

THE NITTY GRITTY (baseline requirements)

You will earn a **5% deduction** to your final essay grade for each missing requirement.

- Follow MLA or APA format.
- Write a minimum of **5 FULL pages** (about 1700 words) of argumentative development.
- Quote from and cite:
 - at least **3** peer-reviewed journal articles from our university’s library databases
 - at least **2** credible outside sources of your choice (e.g. online news/magazine article, organization website, TED Talk, video interview, etc.)
- Include a Works Cited (MLA) or References (APA) page. This does not count towards the page/word count requirement.

THE TASK

STEP 1: Choose **ONE** of the following subcultures as the focus of your essay.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fandom (choose one) ● Cosplay ● Otaku/Anime ● Nerd Culture ● Tabletop RPGs ● Professional Video Gamers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hip Hop ● R&B ● Punk ● Heavy Metal ● Classical Musicians ● Kpop Music/Fandom ● Jazz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LGBT+/Queer Community ● Gen Z ● Millennials ● Body Building ● Ballet ● Professional Wrestling
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If there is a subculture you would like to research that is not on this list, please speak with me via email or before your outline is due. **Subcultures that promote bigotry will not be permitted.**

STEP 2: Develop an expanded thesis statement (**counterarg** + **main arg** + “**So what**”) that explains the misconceptions and hidden truths/beauties about your subculture.

Example: **While *Dungeons & Dragons* players appear antisocial, the game promotes strong and creative teamwork, which is a crucial skill for school and work settings.**

STEP 4: Create an outline of your essay (**due [day & date]**) that provides a basic overview of the argument, discussion points, evidence, and analysis that you plan to discuss in your essay.

Pro-tip - This is a great assignment to bring to [link to tutoring services] for feedback and extra credit!

STEP 5: Write a rough draft of your essay (**due [day & date]**) by adding to the basic points from your outline and turning them into rough paragraphs.

Pro-tip - This is also a great assignment to bring to [link to tutoring services] for feedback and extra credit!

STEP 6: Revise your rough draft to produce a polished, college-level version of your essay (**due [day & date]**). Below are some final steps you should take before submitting your polished draft on Blackboard.

- Read your essay out loud to smooth out grammar and catch typos.
- Double check the nitty gritty requirements (see above) and all steps in this prompt (see above).