Writing Assignment 4: 
Surprising Research Essay

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<th>Rough Draft Due:</th>
<th>Final Draft Due:</th>
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<td>Thurs., April 9</td>
<td>Tues., April 14</td>
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Genre: Informative Essay Using the Surprising-Reversal Strategy (See Chapter 8 for guidance.)

Description: “Using...library/Internet research, write [an essay in the spirit of] an informative magazine article using a surprising-reversal strategy in a tone and style suitable for general readers. Your task is to arouse your readers’ curiosity by posing an interesting question, summarizing a common or expected answer to the question, and then providing new, surprising information that counters or ‘reverses’ the common view. You imagine readers who hold a mistaken or overly narrow view of your topic; your purpose is to give them a new, surprising view” (Ramage, Bean, and Johnson).

Length: 4-5 pages (As long as your paper is at least four **full** pages, you’re all set! 😊)

Research Requirements: Please use at least **five (5) sources** for this paper, according to the following guidelines:

- At least two (2) sources must be scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles (print or online versions; your choice!).

- **One (1) source must be a book.** Ensure that it is a scholarly book by making certain that it contains an index at the back of the book. (The index will also make it easier for you to locate specific topics within the book.)

- You may use popular sources (magazine or newspaper articles, websites, etc.) in your paper, as well. Be sure, though, to apply the CRAAP test questions to each source to make sure that it is effective (and not CRAAP-y!).

Documentation Requirements: Please include a **Works Cited page** in which you cite each source you used in the paper. Also be sure to use **in-text citations** in the paper when appropriate.

*Important:* Please follow the guidelines in the *Rules for Writers* handbook, and/or the MLA documentation resources on HACC’s citation Lib Guide to ensure that you’re using proper MLA format.
Reminders about Rough Drafts

You must bring a printed copy of your rough draft to class on the day of the peer writing workshop. (Alternatively, you may bring a laptop to class and allow your peer workshop partner to read your paper on your laptop.)

If, in addition to your classmates’ comments, you would like to receive my comments on your rough draft, please feel free to come see me during my office hours, or to make an appointment to talk to me if my office hours won’t work for you. I will be delighted to help you! 😊 As an alternative, you are also welcome and encouraged to seek help at the Writing Center (located next to the Lemon Tree Café in Goodling). If you come on a Monday or a Wednesday, you may even be able to have me as your tutor!

What if I’m absent on the day of a peer writing workshop?

Here’s what you should do:
1. Be sure to submit a copy of your rough draft to me at jacastne@hacc.edu, if you wish) before the start of class on the day of the workshop. This will show me that you had your rough draft completed and are not merely skipping class to work on it.
2. Bring your rough draft to the Writing Center and receive help from a tutor.
3. Type up a 1-2 page essay about the feedback you received from your tutor at the Writing Center. Your essay must be at least one FULL page long.
4. Submit this essay with your revised draft of the writing assignment. I will grade it in place of a peer review worksheet.
Grading Rubric for the REVISED Draft of Assignment Four

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<tr>
<th>Description of Requirements</th>
<th>Worth in Points</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Format:</strong> Your paper follows MLA format (described in the syllabus).</td>
<td>/5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Key Goal:</strong> “Using…library/Internet research, [you] write an informative magazine article using a surprising-reversal strategy in a tone and style suitable for general readers” (Ramage, Bean, and Johnson 187).</td>
<td>/20 points</td>
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<td><strong>Clarity of Your Writing:</strong> I can understand the points you are trying to make in your strong response essay. You use specific, appropriate, and creative word choices. You provide interesting and helpful details and examples, and you demonstrate good critical-thinking and analytical skills.</td>
<td>/20 points</td>
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<td><strong>Organization:</strong> The paragraphs in your essay work together effectively. You use transitions to connect your ideas from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph. Your paper includes a clear thesis statement.</td>
<td>/15 points</td>
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<td><strong>Clear Establishment of Your Voice vs. the Author’s Voice:</strong> You use “attributive tags…[and] quotation marks for any quoted passages…to distinguish your own points about the text from the author’s ideas and language” (Ramage, Bean, and Johnson 106).</td>
<td>/10 points</td>
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<td><strong>MLA Documentation:</strong> Following the MLA format guidelines in your textbook and/or the Rules for Writers handbook, you document your sources using both in-text citations (in MLA format) and a Works Cited page (in MLA format)</td>
<td>/15 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanics:</strong> You use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation in your paper. I will pay special attention to any mechanical rules we have discussed so far in class.</td>
<td>/10 points</td>
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| **Practical Concerns:** Your paper adheres to the following rules:  
  • Your paper is stapled or held together with a paperclip. (2.5 points)  
  • You attach the blank grading rubric from the assignment description sheet (in other words, this sheet itself!) to the front of your paper (it should be the first page). Please be sure to write your name on the rubric. (2.5 points)  
  • Note: If you want to include a copy of the rough draft of your paper, too (totally optional), please be sure to label it and place it BEHIND your final draft. This will ensure that I don’t grade the wrong paper! | /5 points |

Total = /100 points

***Important: Points Deductions***

Points will be deducted for the following:

- If a paper does not meet the required length, **10 points will be deducted for each missing page (5 points off per missing half-page).**
- If a paper is not submitted as both a hard copy and on D2L, **5 points will be deducted.** (Remember, papers must be submitted BOTH as a hard copy and on D2L.)
- If a paper is late and a late pass is not used, **5 points will be deducted per day, starting immediately after I collect the papers on the due date.**