

On Being Human: An Analytical Manifesto

Prompt for Writing Assignments #2 - #4

Fall 2016

This quarter you will write an original 8-10 page analytical essay (in the genre of a manifesto) on what it means to live fully human in the modern world. You will draw from global, historical traditions of the pre-modern world and make a case for their significance in your own growth and development (or that of your peers) as a human being in the modern world. You will use this assignment to explore how you can pursue a course of action or make a positive change to live more fully human.

A **manifesto** is a public declaration of the purpose, principles or plan of action of a group or individual. It declares one's intentions, goals, ideals, and motives, and it is a call to action; it can challenge assumptions, foster commitment, and provoke change. In other words, it identifies a problem, offers a solution, declares an intention, goal, or ideal and gives explicit directions for carrying out an action plan to solve the problem.

What it means to live fully human. For the purpose of this assignment, you can think about "living more fully human," in several different ways: as being self-actualized, living out your full potential as a human, or living a more meaningful, authentic, purposeful, satisfying, ideal, good and/or _____ (you fill in the blank) life.

Assignment:

Reflecting on class-assigned sources and integrating current scholarship, write a manifesto for living more fully and ideally human in the modern world. For this assignment you will:

1. **Identify three class-assigned sources**, from *three different* traditions, that have enriched or expanded your understanding of what it means to live fully and ideally human in the modern world?
2. **Identify a problem or concern** that directly interferes with your or others' ability to live more fully human.
3. Make a persuasive **declaration** that addresses the concern you identified and provide a solution or **action plan for positive change/transformation** based on your selected sources.
4. **Build a case (make an argument) to support your declaration** and your **suggested methods for achieving** this transformation using the three class-assigned primary source readings and at least class **two outside scholarly secondary sources** (as evidence of the problem or to support the suggested action plan). What actions will you take or encourage others to take?
5. **Address alternative approaches or counter-arguments** that are relevant to making your argument
6. Explain the **significance/implications** of this manifesto: how do steps toward self- or interpersonal transformation help one become more fully human and how might this influence positive change in one's community (interpersonal relationships, classroom, campus, local, regional, nation, or global)?

Academic Rigor and Building your Case: The manifesto will be structured as an analytical essay; you will be making a declaration (thesis) and an argument about how it and your action plan address a problem that you have identified. Your declaration must include all of the required components of argumentation you worked with in the CRA assignments. You will identify a problem/issue, advance a thesis (your declaration and action plan), support it with evidence (from in-class and outside scholarly sources), address alternative approaches (counter-arguments), and discuss significance/implications in your (or your peers') personal and/or academic life.

Assignment Breakdown

- 10% Paper #2 – Manifesto Preparation Draft**
Length: 4-5 pages minimum (can be longer up to 10 page maximum)

Due date: Week 7 (either on TritonEd by start of lecture on Nov. 8 or in section that week – TBD). After this time, late penalties will apply (see Guidelines for Writing MMW Papers). Even with late penalties, the draft will not be accepted after the start of lecture on Nov. 15 (Week 8), after which time it will be considered “not completed” and will result in a grade of F for the course. Any exception to this deadline must be approved with specific and legitimate documentation *in advance* by your TA.

In an essay, you will develop ideas for your manifesto using the Guidelines for Preparing Your Manifesto handout (posted in TritonEd). As you prepare your draft, think about the following questions and answer those that are relevant to your manifesto (not necessarily in this order).

- What inspires you?
 - What course readings from the pre-modern period have enriched or expanded your thinking about what it means to be fully human or to live more ideally human?
 - How can these ideas impact your (or others’) personal and/or academic life?
- Identify a problem.
 - Reflecting on yourself and your life after reading these sources, are you a fully actualized or ideal human? What is limiting you? (or, what limits others?)
 - Identify a current problem in your life (or among your peers?)
- Declaring your intentions and proposing an action plan
 - What might your manifesto declare (for yourself or others)?
 - What goals or intentions might you set for yourself after encountering some of the course readings/topics from the pre-modern world? What might you change or do? (or, what might others change or do?)
 - What plan of action will you take to reach those goals or enact those intentions? (or, What plan of action do you suggest for others to reach those goals or enact those intentions?)
 - How will the three course readings you selected above support your declaration and solutions/action plan?
- Implications
 - What positive contributions can you make to your own transformation or to the world around you whether interpersonal relationships, campus community, local/regional community, national community, global community?
 - What do you intend to change, either in yourself or in your community? Identify a current problem and imagine it changed through your ideology.
- Outside, scholarly sources
 - How can outside scholarly sources contribute to your description of the problem, consideration of alternative viewpoints/counter-arguments? How can they strengthen your declaration of solutions or action plans? What outside sources will you include and how?

Library Research Support – During Weeks 5 and 6, UCSD librarians will be available in Geisel Library Classroom 1 for dedicated drop-in consultations to help you with your research to find relevant and appropriate scholarly sources.

Wed., Oct. 26
11:00-12:00pm
1:00-2:00pm

Mon., Oct. 31
11:00-12:00pm
1:00-2:00pm

Thurs., October 27
11:00-12:00pm
1:00-2:00pm

Tues., Nov. 1
11:00-12:00pm
1:00-2:00pm

5% Paper #3 - Peer Review of Manifesto Preparation Draft – (Submission method TBD)

Length: 2 pages

Due date: Week 8 (either on TritonEd or in section – TBD). After this time, late penalties will apply (see Guidelines for Writing MMW Papers). Even with late penalties, the draft will not be accepted after the start of lecture on Nov. 22 (Week 9), after which time it will be considered “not completed” and will result in a grade of F for the course. Any exception to this deadline must be approved with specific and legitimate documentation *in advance* by your TA.

With the guidance of a rubric and peer review instructions, classmates will provide written feedback on your Manifesto Preparations. They will comment on the strength of your declaration (thesis) and action plan, your analytical use of primary and secondary source material to support these, and the strength of your discussion or implications/significance, among other variables. You, in turn, will comment on classmates’ drafts.

15% To Be Human: An Analytical Manifesto

Length: 8-10 pages

Due date: Week 10 (no later than the Final Exam in order to pass the course).

Submission Instructions for each assignment above will be posted separately on TritonEd.