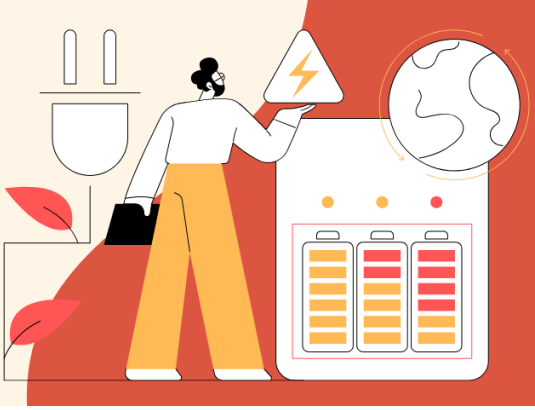
Multimedia Essay #1

CODE120: Research Team I



Analyzing a System in Your Life, Audience=Classmates

Proposal: Week 4, submit a three-sentence proposal about your topic
Images: Week 5, bring images to class that you plan to use in your essay
Rough Draft: Week 5, bring a paper copy to class to workshop
Due Date: Week 6, by end of day
Submission Information: Submit as a page on your ePortfolio and include in menu for class
Length: 1,000-1,500 words

Objectives

- ➔ Practice applying the skills of systems thinking
- ➔ Learn how to reflect upon and analyze your own experience and value your knowledge
- ➔ Practice the skills of multimedia writing.
- ➔

Assignment Summary

As Dr. Molly Kirby tells us in Chapter 2, Section 2.1 of *Our Common Ground*, a system is a set of interconnected things that work together. What that system achieves may be good, bad, or a mix. **Systems Thinking is an approach to problem-solving that analyzes how individual parts of a system interact with and influence one another within the whole.**

For your first multimedia essay, you will analyze a system related to our research team topic that you have experienced first hand. Choose a system that has an impact on you and a community you are a part of. This assignment values your knowledge as a stakeholder.

Understanding a system is like looking at an iceberg. Seeing what is underneath can be hard if you are part of the iceberg. In your analysis, tell us how the system has played a role in your own life and your experience within a community, then create some distance to reveal the parts of the iceberg that are under the water.

Components of Your Analysis

Use your own perspective to explain how the system works. Integrate the following concepts from Chapter 2 into your essay:

1. **Parts, Connections, and Outcomes**: Identify the parts, connections, and outcomes of the system. Explain the importance of each. What might shift if you changed specific parts?
2. **Stakeholders**: Who are the system's stakeholders and how are they impacted by it? You are a stakeholder too, so explain how you fit in.
3. **Feedback Loops**: Use feedback loops to explain how the system moves and feeds into itself. Make your own illustrations of the feedback loops to help elaborate on your ideas.
4. **Drivers**: What components are driving the system's behavior? How do you know they are drivers? What would you change about the drivers to change the system for the better?

What is a Multimedia Essay?

A multimedia essay, which you are also writing in CODE 121, integrates text, image, video, and audio, to tell a complex story. The pieces interweave to inform one another. Choose the location for media in the essay carefully, talk about them in the text, and **caption them.** Media that might help you better explain your analysis of the system might include:

- ➔ Images, recordings, or videos that relate to the experience of the topic.
- ➔ Illustrations you've developed to help understand the system.
- ➔ Links to websites that help elaborate on the system in a local context.

Finding Open Source Images and Citing Them

If you search for images online, make sure you have the license to share them. The "tools" feature in Google Images allows you to narrow your search to images with a Creative Commons license. As an SIUE student, you have access to Adobe Stock; create an account through Creative Cloud using your Microsoft login. Cite media with required permissions in the caption.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	A Proficient Essay will...	A Developing Essay Will...	An Essay Still in Need of Work Will...
Length/ Formatting	Include at least five media components; 1,000 to 1,500 words in length	Include at least three media components; 1,000 to 1,500 words in length	Not include media components or be shorter than 1,000 words
Organization	Use paragraphs and structure ideas within them for impact	Use paragraphs but structure, transitions, or ordering need work	Not have paragraphs
Grammar/ Style	Be relatively free of grammatical errors; experiment with style	Have several grammatical errors, or basic style issues	Have significant grammatical errors and stylistic issues
Multimedia Inclusion	Use media and text to inform one another; order adds to meaning	Include media but could do more to integrate with text	Not have enough media or media do not relate well to the text
Storytelling	Tell a compelling story about personal ties to system	Tells a story but could reflect more on ties to system	Tells brief outline of story without reflecting on ties to system
System Analysis	Uses terminology and concepts from Chapter 2 to provide a nuanced story about system	Uses some terminology and concepts from Chapter 2 to explain system	Does not use terminology from Chapter 2 or analyze the system