

CAP 111: Writing for Cultural Literacy/CAP 121: How Do You Know?

Unit 3: How Do You Know About Current Problems Assignment 3a: 15-minute Group Presentation

Preparation Workshops: Wed., Nov. 13

Due: Mon., Nov. 18 in class

We will provide each group with a different news source related to the September 11 terrorist attacks. As a group, present to the rest of the class an analysis of the perspective(s), of the editorial. In your presentation, identify the perspective(s) in the editorial, explain what parts of the editorial demonstrate that perspective(s) and analyze specific passages, and show how the perspective of the editorial relates to the information about September 11 that it tries to convey.

Perspective is a term that can be described as the "chair you sit in when you watch the play" (Stuart). Perspective is more than simply the errors of logic that result in bias and lacks the negative connotations of bias. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines perspective as "point of view" or as "a mental view, outlook, or prospect." Examples of several different kinds of perspectives are listed below, although you may come up with others:

- local, national, global
- religious, secular
- pacifist, militarist
- gender specific, gender neutral
- scientific, humanistic, literary, artistic
- class related (the poor, working class, upper class)
- Christian, Jewish, Islamic, etc
- self interested, altruistic
- nationalistic, regional, ethnocentric, race-based
- ethical/moral, pragmatic, "realpolitik"
- developing nations, third world

Each of these sets of perspectives represents a continuum, a range of perspective. An editorial does not have to represent a completely pacifist point of view, for example; it may instead be somewhere between pacifist and militarist.

Use the following process to put together your presentation:

1. Read your assigned article.
2. As a group, identify its perspective(s); remember that an essay can have more than one perspective (for example, it may be both local and religious).
3. Determine how the perspectives are represented in the article that you read by analyzing specific passages.
4. Determine what the article conveys about the events of September 11 and how that information relates to its perspective.
5. Prepare a full-sentence outline of the presentation that includes a paragraph summary of the presentation. You will hand in this outline and paragraph summary at the time of your presentation.

Each member of the group must play an active role in the presentation with a section specifically designated to each group member, as determined by the group.

The materials from the presentations should be incorporated in your Assignment 3b.

Assignment 3b: Consulting Multiple Contemporary Sources

Draft Workshops: Nov. 25 and Dec. 2

Due: Dec. 4

For this assignment each student will read three editorials that attempt to explain or help us understand the meaning of the attacks of September 11. These sources will be provided to you in CAP 111 and 121 and will come from the mainstream American press, international press, U.S. minority group or ethnic presses, etc. This assignment illustrates your ability to understand an issue from multiple perspectives (to implement Armstrong's "triple vision," although in this case the three perspectives are not necessarily Jewish, Muslim, and Christian). The term "perspective" is defined above.

For your essay, select three editorials that come from different perspectives (although they may overlap in perspective). Identify the perspectives of each article, analyzing the evidence from the piece that supports your interpretation. What aspects of September 11 do the different perspectives focus on? What insights can a reader gain from one editorial that he or she might not gain from the others?

Any personal reflections on 9/11 that you wish to include ought to be confined to the introduction and/or conclusion but should not be a source of evidence. In your analysis, you should avoid the "errors of truth" discussed by Ruggiero in chapter 12.

Your essay should be 5 pages long, formatted properly following APA guidelines.

Revised Syllabus for CAP 111

Nov.	11	Start Unit 3
	13	Prepare for presentations
	18	3a presentations in class
	20	Preparation and pre-writing for 3b
	25	Draft workshop for 3b
	27	Meet at 9 am in BRK Auditorium for showing of "Wag the Dog"
Dec.	2	Draft workshop for 3b
	4	3b due
		Portfolio workshop
	9	Portfolio due to CAP 111 instructor