

Conference Papers

Intro to Communication Studies – Fall 2009

Date Due: You will sign up for one conference paper during the term. Your paper must be posted at least 24 hours before your conference time on your conference's designated bulletin board and a paper copy is due at the beginning of your conference. We will be happy to provide comments on drafts during office hours but not over email.

Purpose: For you to 1) demonstrate an understanding of key concepts from the readings for a given section of the course; 2) to apply that idea to something in the real world, and 3) to spur discussion of the readings in your conference section.

Product:

1. Once during the term, you will produce a typed paper of approximately 2-3 pages (about 500-750 words), double-spaced with an additional page for works cited. Typeface should be Times or Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, 1" margins. Pages should be numbered, and your name, time of conference, and name of your TA should be in the upper right hand corner of the first page. You do not need a separate title page. The paper should meet the standards of academic style. Keep electronic and paper backup copies of your paper for your records. We do not accept papers sent via email.

2. **You must post an electronic version of the typed paper on the appropriate discussion board for your conference 24 hours before the meeting in which you will present. Your version on your section's discussion board can either be cut-and-pasted or posted as a document in a standard file format (.doc, .txt, .rtf or .pdf). If you post an attachment, make sure it works and is virus-free (McGill provides free antivirus software –use it). Please note that if we cannot open or read your posted file, it is as if it was never posted.**

3. Be prepared to discuss your paper in class if it comes up. You will not necessarily have to present on it.

YOUR TASK is slightly different depending on the week you sign up for. Assignment sheets are on the course website.

Tips: We are looking for you to make clear and cogent claims about your example and the course material. Although you are allowed to do research for this paper, it is not primarily a research paper. It is an interpretive paper. We want you to apply a concept from the readings, though of course it is helpful to know something about your artifact or example (depending on the assignment). If you do research, keep in mind that definitions and concepts should come from academic sources and not everyday sources such as dictionaries or encyclopedias (unless they are particularly academic in nature, such as the *Oxford English Dictionary*). Yes, this means you can't cite wikipedia. If you have questions about how to conduct proper academic research, please make an appointment to see your prof or TA well in advance of your assigned week. You may wish to use the assignment as a practice run or to try out an artifact for your term paper. See the term paper assignment for details and restrictions.

Related Documents on the website: "Conference Paper Grid" "Understanding Your Marks in COMS 210" and "Dates for Conference Papers," in addition to the weekly assignments. Your TA will post the assigned dates on his or her conference discussion board.

If you are assigned a date that you don't like for whatever reason: it is your responsibility to exchange dates with another student and you both must notify your TA by email. It is not your TA's responsibility to make alternate arrangements on your behalf.

Citation styles vary in Communication Studies. Whenever possible, your professor prefers Chicago with footnotes for his own writing, but Chicago parenthetical, Harvard, APA and MLA are all used in different journals and on different presses. So any of these styles will be fine.

Good luck and have fun!