

EH 102 Stasis Essay Assignment Sheet

Big Dates:

- Thursday, September 17th: Stasis Map of Research Topic
 - hand-drawn/photographed or typed, then uploaded to Moodle by 11:59PM
- Sunday, September 20th: Rough Draft Due by 11:59pm
- Monday, September 21st: Revision Workshop:
 - complete draft due in class (digital or hard-copy)
 - revised draft due to Moodle by 11:59pm on Tuesday 9/22
- Wednesday, September 23rd: Peer Review Draft Workshop
 - polished draft due in class for digital workshopping
- Sunday, September 27th: Final Essay Due
 - complete, proof-read, revised, cited, and formatted draft due to Moodle by 11:59pm



What It Is:

Length/grade weight: 1200 words (4-ish pages), 15% of total class grade

As we discussed in class and through our PowerPoint from Monday 9/14, “stasis theory” is a critical strategy for breaking down complex texts and topics. Used in bubble map (or list) form, “stasis theory” aims to create a comprehensive map which can be used to identify multiple facets of a text or topic.

1) Maps & Topics: You’ve already created “stasis” bubble maps about your *Twilight Zone* research episodes. Now, I am asking you to make a “stasis” bubble map about a single topic/issue that you’ve observed within your research topic (due Thursday 9/17 @ 11:59PM), using the same methodology from the first bubble map. This time, focus in on your one main topic/issue and expand the point.

Deciding on a firm topic from your episode and expanding it will exercise the critical analysis that we have been working through, but it will also require critical imagining and critical creativity. You will need to be creative about how you’re assessing your episode and thinking through the issues and topics that it is invoking. Further, the more “concrete” you make your topic/issue, the more traction you will have in your research.

Examples of “concrete” topics based on episodes that we have watched and our class discussions:

- “The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street” → cultural dependence on technology
- “Eye of the Beholder” → the monstrosity of “normal” cultures
- “To Serve Man” → “buying in” to smart technology w/ long-term consequences
- “Nick of Time” → addiction; consumer manipulation
- “The Shelter” → toilet paper and the role of stories in imagining the apocalypse

2) The Essay: This is not an argumentative essay. There is no argument or claim here. You are only setting up and generating a full picture of your topic. The paragraphs should be the main 7 branches from your bubble map. The “stasis essay” is the essay version of the stasis map that you have created based a topic/theme that you observed and queried from your research episode.

As part of this assignment, you will use 3+ cited sources within your essay and submit a copy of both of your stasis maps, as well as a “Works Cited” and “Bibliography” page. Your sources need to be valid, credible, and reputable. I encourage “academic/peer-reviewed” sources, but understand that this essay might first require “popular” sources to create a full picture of your topic.

Use any keywords that you generate from your map to dig through the BSC Library page and find strong sources that contribute to the “larger picture” of your topic. Build and draft your essay based on your stasis map. You may follow the branches into complete sentences or take a more thematic, conversational approach. Within your essay, please be sure to define your topic from multiple perspectives and outline the controversies or conversations around your topic using your library sources.

Please submit everything on Sunday 9/27 as a single document the following items to Moodle: 1) Essay, 2) Works Cited, 3) Bibliography, and 4) Your Stasis Map.*

*Stasis Map may be the original map from your homework, but you may also make a “clean” copy. Pictures or scans of handwritten/drawn maps are welcome as attached PDFs or pictures dropped into the same Word Doc as your essay.

Please remember to draft your work in a cloud drive, and please do not submit “Pages” documents, as they sometimes slow up TurnItIn.

Revise & Resubmit Policy:

Please review the “Revise & Resubmit” policy on the Syllabus, in case you would like to take up that offer in the future.

Finally: HAVE FUN! YOU’VE GOT THIS!
Now, get out there, and make me proud!

