To Do Today

- Hand in assignment
- 5 minute essay!
- Class discussion: the “con” side of the anthropic principle
- Proposal assignment & conference signups
- Thesis statement workshop
- End of class: 10 minute brainstorm on what you think your thesis statement will be (I’ll respond via email!)

5 Minute Essay

- Pretend (even if it’s not true!) that you believe the anthropic principle IS NOT scientifically valuable. Tell me:
  - Why you feel that way!
  - What sort of arguments could have convinced you
  - What you find to be the most convincing argument from the “pro” side and how you respond to it

Final Project

- Essay 7: prep work, rough draft, and final draft worth 20 points.
- 6-8 pages presenting an argument about the anthropic principle.
- Rough draft due Tuesday, April 21
- Peer review on Thursday, April 23rd
- Final draft due Thursday, April 30th (last day of class)

Class Discussion

- When you were looking for articles that portrayed the anthropic principle in a negative light, what did you find?
- What did your articles and their arguments have in common?
- Did you find anything really interesting?
Group Discussion

- Get into groups of four
- Share your summaries
  - What was good about the articles you found?
  - What was not so good or was missing?
  - What more do you think you need to find before you have what you need to write your essay?
- Talk about your essays
  - Have you changed your mind about your thesis statement?
  - Is there anything you need help with?

Proposal Assignment

- CONFERENCE SIGN UPS: if none of these times work for you, let me know ASAP.
- Anthropic Principle Prep Work
- Assignment Due Tuesday, April 14th OR at the time of your individual conference with me if that comes first. You need a copy at your conference and one in class on Tuesday.

Proposal Assignment

- A proposal may sound similar to an outline, but this is a step that should come before an outline.
- At this stage, you’re not trying to frame out an entire essay, organizationally, from beginning to end — that’s what an outline does.
- Instead, you are trying to think carefully about your topic and how you would produce an argument, in order to assess whether your topic is juicy enough to fill the space allotted and whether it is well-supported by the sources you’ve been able to find.
Proposal Assignment

* In other words, you want to write down what you want to write about in a formal way. You're making sure that this is an essay that you *would* be able to outline, and that it forms one cohesive idea that is arguable from the evidence you've obtained.

* **Bring a copy with you to class to discuss with peers, but also bring a copy with you to your individual conference with me.**

Proposal Assignment

* You will also be writing an annotated bibliography of the sources that you will use to construct your final essay.

* I am working on a list of the sources the class compiled. Make a list of at least three sources (with proper bibliographic information) that agree with your essay's argument and at least one more source that disagrees. These will be the sources you use in your final argumentative essay.

Proposal Assignment

* At least one of the sources needs to be from a scholarly journal.

* None of them need to be from the sources you originally picked to share with the class; you can also use the class readings, other than the Wikipedia article.

* **BRING A PRINTOUT OF EACH TO CLASS ON TUESDAY.** The annotated bibliography should include the full bibliographic information for the article, and a few sentences summarizing it. However, since this is preparation for you, you may make it as long as you want, and can include quotations or anything else that will be useful for you when you put together your final essay.

What is a thesis statement?

* **Ideas?**
What is a thesis statement?

See EasyWriter, page 13

Start with a “working thesis”

- Includes a topic (which states what you are writing about) and a comment (which makes an important point about the topic)
- A formula to START with is: "In this essay, I will argue that ____ because ____, which reveals ____.”

Examples: working thesis statements

- “Recent studies of depression suggest that it is much more closely related to physiology than scientists had previously thought.”
- “The current health-care crisis arises from three major causes.”
- Which is the topic? What is the comment?

Characteristics

- A successful working thesis has three characteristics, according to EasyWriter:
  - Potentially interesting to the intended audience
  - As specific as possible
  - Limits the topic enough to make it manageable.

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- A fourth from me: it has an argument, i.e. someone could argue against it.

- A fifth from me: it states your opinion outright, rather than beating around the bush!

- And a sixth from me: it can be supported by evidence (just like science!)

- What kinds of statements do NOT follow these rules?
Another way of looking at it:

An argumentative paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The claim could be an opinion, a policy proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

Check out:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

Better examples

Also from EasyWriter

Instant messaging is a positive force in the development of youth literacy because it promotes regular contact with words, the use of a written medium for communication, and the development of an alternative form of literacy.

Also from EasyWriter

While researchers do not precisely agree on what complex interaction among parent, child, and environment leads to child abuse, they strongly concur on the need for early detection of such abuse.

Also from EasyWriter

Although we may never know definitively why Oberlin College opened its doors to women and African Americans, a study of archival materials and contemporary news accounts suggests that the school’s philosophy, its faculty, and its major supporters were key factors in bringing about this change.
Also from EasyWriter

“Although still in its early stages, embryonic stem cell research has the potential to further the scientific understanding of human cell development, and may someday offer new hope for patients with diseases now seen as incurable.”

Who’s arguing for the anthropic principle?
Who’s arguing against it?
Start working on your thesis statement; help each other out!

What are you planning on writing your essay about?
What is the topic? What do you want to argue?
Can you come up with a working version of your thesis statement? Don’t worry about fancy wording/grammar/perfection!
I’ll respond via email to give you an idea of how your thesis statement is looking!

Work on your proposal
ASAP I will send out a bibliography of articles that the class has found.
Find what’s useful to you
If you need more resources, look for them!
Let me know if you need help.
Reminder

Starting next week we'll be outlining, writing, and directly working on our essays in class. Having some articles printed out with you, and a laptop or a nice notebook, will help.