

**CPN 99**  
**Essay #3 (Research, Interpretation, and Argument)**

As Levy has shown us by using Robert Carter as an example, we have ignored—and continue to ignore—many people who have, during our history, shown us solutions for, or actively responded to, some of our most pressing problems. John Brown, Frederick Douglass, Malcolm X, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, W.E.B. Dubois, John Trudell, are a few of the better known figures who have marginalized status in history books and popular culture in spite of their acts relating to emancipation, social justice, and civil rights. Many other social justice activists are far less well known.

By researching academic sources, **choose one of these of these ignored activists (doesn't need to be in above list) and, referring to assertions by Menand and Levy as well as your own experience and knowledge, consider why that person is largely unsung or ignored today---and why he or she shouldn't be.** Don't use Robert Carter.

You will need to summarize your sources, provide background as appropriate, and document in MLA format all source material, using both in-text citations and the Works Cited page. Do not use Wikipedia or another Internet source. Failure to fully document is plagiarism, intentional or otherwise. Rather, use a biographical database available in the library. Your primary source material should come from essay (s) or articles by academics (also available at the library).

***Process:***

- First, conduct general research: any sources
- Next, conduct biographical research (background): use Library database
- Then conduct an in-depth study: Source article(s) (full-text only; no summaries) found in Memorial Library databases

You need to take good, clear, documented, substantial notes for each phase of this process. Poor notes will translate into an unacceptable grade. Keep documented notes in folder. Bring folder to every class.

Page length: **2-1/2-3 pages**, not including Works Cited page

Documentation: MLA

***Schedule:***

**Tues., Nov.13:** Background paragraph due (word processed), along with your reasons for choosing the person. Present in class in a folder labeled on its tab with your name, CPN 99, and "Essay #3." The submission page will have that information in the upper left hand corner.

**Tuesday, Nov. 20** (no class): email me the following by 12 noon as a Word or Word Perfect Document (not Works):

1. Revised background paragraph
2. Works Cited page (fully developed) revealing all your sources.
3. Thesis statement and supporting paragraph that briefly includes your assertion as to why that person is largely unsung or ignored today---and why he or she shouldn't be.

**Thursday, Nov. 29:** Complete Essay Submission Draft in folder. An essay without an attached Works Cited page is incomplete and will not be accepted. You may also wish to use this essay as a portfolio submission. Portfolios are due also on the 29<sup>th</sup> in class. No late submissions.

**Requirements:**

- Use MLA formatting and documentation (Read Troyka).
- Center title above beginning paragraph, no quotation marks, no underline, no larger or boldface font.
- Use approximately 1" margins, space and a half or double space between lines.
- At the top left-hand corner of first page only, record your name, Essay #, CPN 99.
- Number all pages, including the Works Cited page.
- Your last name and page should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- Staple together pages of each draft, with the Work Cited page being the last page.
- Submit in a plain vanilla manila folder labeled on the tab with your name, section number, and essay number. In the folder, include all components: notes, worksheet, outline, drafts, any evaluations. Your final submission draft should be on top.
- Use proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and other conventions of good academic writing. Yes, spelling counts. Write with a dictionary nearby. Don't use the computer's grammar checker; its suggestions are often incorrect and ill-advised.
- Bring in the essay folder your current work in progress, including drafts, to each class and conference.

***Use proper grammar, punctuation, mechanics, sentence structure, and other conventions of good writing. See development Schedule on back.***

## Caveats:

- Do not uses phrases like "In today's society, "in today's day and age," "we as society," "throughout history" or other weak and vague generalizations. Do not use the pronouns "I" or "you."
- Avoid clichés, street talk, jargon, and lazy speech. Be specific and engaging. Reach for the right word; use the dictionary and thesaurus. Watch out, however, that you do not use inflated, overblown language. Communicate concisely and effectively. If your essay doesn't make sense, or isn't in complete sentences, or if it is poorly punctuated, it will not pass.
- *Important:* In order to get a passing grade on this essay, you must complete and hand in all components of the assignment as scheduled and as assigned, including notes, outline, preliminary thesis statement, any required drafts and any assigned evaluations.
- Careless, sloppy, or insufficient work will not be accepted. Take pride in your work; stay organized and put your best effort into this essay.
- I open many emails and attachments every day. If I can't open yours (Nov. 20), that will likely indicate that you have not followed format directions. I will not attempt to troubleshoot email problems. You will not get credit for that essay preparation assignment.

