

Dear class,

A few points about the writing assignments:

1. Papers will be handed back one week after you hand them in, so if you ask for an extension, the entire process will be extended.
2. Your revision is due a week after you get your first draft back. Some of you will definitely need to make an appointment with Nora Delaney, our Writing Advisor. Each student will need to meet with her at least once. I can also help with writing issues.
3. A “first draft” of a paper does NOT mean that you can hand in a “rough” draft. It needs to be as finished as you can possibly make it, which includes proper citations, date, title, numbered pages (!!), correct spelling, logical structure, introduction and conclusions, etc., etc.
4. If you have questions about proper citation practice, consult any of our readings for examples or send an email.

Also consult a document titled “Integrating quotations into your writing” is located under “General”.

Avoid long quotes. If you must include one, any quote that takes up more than 5 lines needs to be indented. If indented, quotation marks are not needed (consult your readings for examples). But far more preferable is to paraphrase, which is perfectly fine so long as you cite your source. For example:

Johnson notes that the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy poodle. He qualifies this assertion, however, noting that colorless green ideas sleep peacefully (1987: 16).

5. Create a reader in your mind and then write addressing that person. Your aunt Sue, your Uncle Bob are good candidates. This imagined reader should be someone you have to explain a fair amount to. Keeping that reader in mind will help you to include important background information. Do NOT write thinking of me or Chloe or Nora as your reader.
6. Consult the following:

“Cohen’s Rules of Thumb for Written Assignments”

“How to Write a Paper,” by Steve Van Evera (Courtesy of Stephen Van Evera. Used with permission.)

“Tips on grammar, punctuation, revising drafts, and citing sources”

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21A.226 Ethnic and National Identity
Fall 2011

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.