

**“Chronicle of a Campus”: Portfolio III**  
**Due Monday, April 28th, 2014**

Having completed all of your preliminary research assignments, and having thought about your work in light of our goals as a class, you have now begun your individual research endeavors in earnest. As you work, continue to look to the suggestions that I have provided for you on the wiki site, located on the “Interview Three” page.

Your portfolios will be due on Monday, April 28th. These projects will all be unique in their design, intent, and style of execution. However, I ask that everyone adhere to the following guidelines:

- Your essays should be five to eight pages in length, and follow MLA format.
- You may write more than eight pages, but please be extremely careful if you do so, as pages of ten pages or more can become unwieldy.
- Please do not hesitate to communicate with me throughout the remainder of this process if you have any questions.

**Composition Rubric**

**Ideas** - Choose a focused and manageable approach to your topic, with accurate and precise details, and give your ideas life through dynamic use of strong, active verbs. Use specific, concrete details to support your ideas throughout. Remember that highly conceptual language tends to imply a great deal, without delivering enough “punch.” Fully articulated ideas tend to appear more modest, yet offer far more “content” to readers. This is crucially important to keep in mind when crafting a thesis.

**Organization** - Choose an appropriate, and original lead, make good use of sequence and transitional words, and conclude your essay with a natural, and thoughtful ending.

**Word Choice** - In order to convey your purpose clearly, use expressive diction, and a compelling tone throughout your entire essay. Avoid lame, vague words, such as “like,” “so,” “very,” and “stuff.” Please remember that vague terms suggest (and often indicate) vague thoughts.

**Sentence Fluency** - Keep in mind that a powerful blend of well-crafted, creative sentences, results in a smooth, rhythmic flow of ideas, and a pleasant reading experience. Remember that commas allow your ideas to breathe.

**Conventions** - Adhere to grammar and usage rules consistently and correctly (I know this “sounds” strange, but read aloud as you compose your essay and proofread your work). Do not use second person (and this means YOU)!

**Presentation** - Make use of pleasing, easy to read font styles and sizes, featuring seamless, appropriate text features throughout.