Final Paper and Presentation

I. Determine what type of paper you are writing based on the following guidelines:

- An **analytical** paper breaks down an issue or an idea into its component parts, evaluates the issue or idea, and presents this breakdown and evaluation to the audience.
- An **expository** (explanatory) paper focuses mainly on explaining an idea or a topic to the audience. The idea or topic is then evaluated and conclusion(s) are made with caution.
- An **argumentative** paper makes a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

II. Your thesis statement should be specific—it should cover only what you will discuss in your paper and should be supported with specific evidence.

III. The thesis statement usually appears at the end of the first paragraph of a paper.

IV. Your topic may change as you write, which means you may need to revise your thesis statement to reflect exactly what you have discussed in the paper.

V. Your paper should reflect some aspect of critical thinking. Please refer to “A CONCEPTION OF CRITICAL THINKING” on page 3.

**Thesis Statement Examples**

**Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)**

_Thesis example 1:_ While the implantation of RFID chips could be helpful in an extremely small number of cases, the vast majority of us would want to be able to opt out. The risk of governments or individuals stealing or misusing this data is far too great to implement this technology in any far-reaching way. In addition, chips should not be used in commercial products, because they are yet another means to invade consumers' privacy.

_Thesis example 2:_ In the event of medical emergency, kidnapping or many other situations, knowing a person's precise location could make the difference between life and death. Thus, the US government should explore a policy of implanting RFID chips in all citizens who want them--and especially in children--particularly since the health risk and physical inconvenience associated with these devices is minimal compared with the more serious repercussions of not having such a device implanted. In addition, such chips are and should be continued to be used in commercial products because they provide much-needed assistance with inventory control and in the reduction of theft.
Create a Sentient AI?

*Thesis example 1:* Even if human beings have the capacity to create sentient life, such experiments should not be pursued. While one can imagine many potential benefits of this research, ultimately we have no sense of the implications of such a project, which has the potential to be extremely dangerous.

*Thesis example 2:* It is part of human nature that we will seek to solve problems, and the problem of how to create a sentient artificial intelligence will and should be pursued. The idea of a race of intelligent robots taking over the world should be left to science fiction writers; the rest of us should concentrate on the massive benefits in efficiency and productivity that such an invention could provide.

Create a thesis statement related to one of the following topics:

1. Computer Recycling and the Environment
2. Green Computing
3. Artificial Intelligence versus Human Intelligence
4. Machine versus Man
5. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) issues and controversies.
6. Internet Security and Cyber War
7. Global Digital Divide/Unwired Nation(s)
8. Computers in Africa?
9. Technological Advances in Medicine
10. Technological Advances in the Military
11. Nanotechnology

The final research paper should be 4 full-length pages (font size 12, 1.5 line spacing, and about 1600 words) excluding figures, diagrams, charts, tables, etc. The paper should have an introduction, a body, and a conclusion. At least two journal/book references must also be provided. Also, attach a photocopy of the articles that you used to your final paper.

The final presentation should be prepared in PowerPoint and will be presented to the class in 8-10 minutes/group (no more than 2 people/group) including time for questions (roughly 2-3 minutes). See presentation tips on page 4 of this document.
A CONCEPTION OF CRITICAL THINKING

Assuming that critical thinking is reasonable reflective thinking focused on deciding what to believe or do, a critical thinker:

- Is open-minded and mindful of alternatives
- Tries to be well-informed
- Judges well the credibility of sources
- Identifies conclusions, reasons, and assumptions
- Judges well the quality of an argument, including its reasons, assumptions, and evidence
- Can well develop and defend a reasonable position
- Asks appropriate clarifying questions
- Formulates plausible hypotheses; plans experiments well
- Defines terms in a way appropriate for the context
- Draws conclusions when warranted -- with caution
- Integrates all items in this list

http://www.criticalthinking.net/SSConcCTApr3.html
PRESENTATION TIPS

- Body language is important. Standing, walking or moving about with appropriate hand gesture or facial expression is preferred to sitting down or standing still with head down and reading from a prepared speech. Master the use of presentation software such as PowerPoint well before your presentation. Do not over-dazzle your audience with excessive use of animation, sound clips, or flashy colors which are inappropriate for your topic. Do not torture your audience by putting a lengthy document in tiny print on an overhead and reading it out to them.

- Speak with confidence as if you really believe in what you are saying. Persuade your audience effectively. The material you present orally should have the same ingredients as that which are required for a written research paper, i.e. a logical progression from INTRODUCTION (thesis statement) to BODY (strong supporting arguments, accurate and up-to-date information) to CONCLUSION (summary and logical conclusion).

- Do not read from notes for any extended length of time although it is quite acceptable to glance at your notes infrequently. Speak loudly and clearly. Sound confident. Do not mumble. If you made an error, correct it, and continue.

- Maintain sincere eye contact with your audience. Use the 3-second method, e.g. look straight into the eyes of a person in the audience for 3 seconds at a time. Have direct eye contact with a number of people in the audience, and every now and then glance at the whole audience while speaking. Use your eye contact to make everyone in your audience feel involved.

- Speak to your audience, listen to their questions, respond to their reactions, adjust and adapt. If what you have prepared is obviously not getting across to your audience, change your strategy mid-stream if you are well prepared to do so. Remember that communication is the key to a successful presentation. If you are short of time, know what can be safely left out. If you have extra time, know what could be effectively added. Always be prepared for the unexpected.

(www.aresearchguide.com/3tips.html)