The Reflective Writing Research Paper

The Essay Portion of your Final Exam

He to whom the present is the only thing that is present, knows nothing of the age in which he lives. -Oscar Wilde
A Generational Guide
I have no way of substantiating my argument.

Greatest Generation: I read once that . . .

Baby Boomers: I saw on the History Channel that . . .

Generation X: In that one Simpsons episode they . . .

Millennials: On Facebook someone posted a . . .
I aim to abandon this gathering with all due haste.

Greatest Generation: Well, I am afraid it’s getting late . . .

Baby Boomers: It’s getting late.

Generation X: Later

Millennials: [Climbs out of the apartment via fire escape]
Regardless, everyone is truly alone.

Greatest Generation: Very well then.

Baby Boomers: O.K.

Generation X: Fine, whatever.

Millennials: LOL
I’m afraid the difference must be generational.

Greatest Generation: I remember when you couldn’t [exercise basic freedom].

Baby Boomers: Kids today are like we were in the 60s only [unintentional judgement].

Generation X: You weren’t even born when [event in the early 1980s] happened.

Millennials: I think I’m a little A.D.D.
Every generation is a "melting pot" of different kinds of people, yet every generation is united in an "age location" in history. Fads, fashion, and politics reflect specific attitudes about each generation's interpretation on life. Many generations have been labeled with a name reflecting their attitudes and actions.
Examine your generation, give a name to your generation and choose three areas to explore and reflect upon your own ideals as to how your generation defines the three areas. Also, how do you fit into your generation? Are you in the thick of what pop culture is experiencing or do you find yourself on the cusp, outside as an onlooker? Finally, what thumbprint do you want to leave behind? What impact do you intend to have on society?
Step 1: Name your Generation

- Depression 1927-1945
- Baby Boom 1946-1964
- Generation X 1965-1983
- ?????????? 1984-2002

Be creative! Really think about a name that truly represents your generation and what they believe in and stand for! It can’t be Generation Y or the Millennials! Be original! 😊
### Step 2: Choose Three Characteristics To Explore:

#### Period 1
- **Space Exploration**
- **Music**
- **Civil Rights**
- **Fashion**
- **Gender Equality**
- **Internet**
- **Violence**
- **Health**
- **Education**
- **Rebellion**
- **Jobs**
- **Journalism**
- **Scandals**
- **Technology**
- **Drugs**
- **War**
- **Literature**
- **Racism**
- **Transportation**
- **Sports**
- **Foreign Relations**
- **Family Values**
- **Community**
- **Marriage**
- **Politics**

#### Period 2
- **Race Relations**
- **Music**
- **Entertainment**
- **Technology**
- **Civil Rights**
- **Gender Equality**
- **Fashion**
- **Space**
- **War**
- **Morals & Ethics**
- **Education**
- **Politics**
- **Terrorism**
- **Health & Medicine**
- **Innovation**
- **Scandals**
- **Violence**
- **American Dream**
- **Community**
- **World Affairs**
- **Drugs**
- **Transportation**
- **Celebrity**
- **Sports**

#### Period 3
- **Race Relations**
- **Technology**
- **Terrorism**
- **War**
- **Trends**
- **Music**
- **Fashion**
- **Entertainment**
- **Civil Unrest**
- **Health & Medicine**
- **Sports**
- **Community**
- **Morals & Ethics**
- **Politics**
- **Space Exploration**
- **Gender Equality**
- **Scandals**
- **Global Relations**
- **Media**
- **Family**
- **Social Relations**
- **Crime**
- **Drugs**
- **Patriotism**
Step 3: Identify Three Generational Markers

The key is that your generational markers need to be events anyone your age from around the U.S. would remember!
Organizational Path

Intro
• (include name of your generation)
• Mention 3 Generational Markers

Characteristic 1
Characteristic 2
Characteristic 3

How I fit in

Conclusion
This is your essay portion of the final exam and worth 200 points! You will ONLY submit to turnitin – no hard copies!

This will be in APA format with an Abstract!

It is in 1st person! (no you or your)

Intro & Conclusion: 4-6

Body Paragraphs: 5-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Words</th>
<th>1000-1500</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Number of Resources</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parenthetical documentation per source</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Outline Needed?</td>
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<td>Number of Vocabulary Words (Lessons 9-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Source Requirements</td>
<td>2 periodicals, 1 web site, 1 interview</td>
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(Hint: National Newspapers Core from the Rio Database is a fantastic place to get your periodical!)
Personal Communication. Cite interviews, memos, letters, e-mail, and similar unpublished person-to-person communication as follows:

One of Atkinson’s colleagues, who has studied the effect of the media on the children’s eating habits, has contended that advertisers for snack foods will need to design ads responsibly for their younger viewers (F. Johnson, personal communication, October 20, 2011).

Do NOT include personal communication in your reference list! You also need to have two references to your interview in your paper, just like any other source! So, your references page will only list three sources!

(yes, you can interview someone at any age. But, you need to be sure you get a worthy “sound bite” – we only quote to add something dynamic to the writing and to brilliantly support your ideas!)
APA Requirements

Title Page
Remember that your title is the answer to your prompt!

Abstract (150-200 words)
The abstract is a brief summary of the paper, allowing readers to
Quickly review the main points and purpose of the paper. No PD
should be in your abstract!

Paper

References Page
A Few APA Reminders

• Abstract page is blocked – don’t indent your paragraph!
• Only use Times New Roman for your font!
• Be sure that for your quotes/paraphrases you include the author (or whatever comes first in the works cited), and year!
• Be sure that your shortened title in all caps is your header (flush left) and your page number is flush right.
• Use the samples that I provided and that can be found on our web page! 😊
<table>
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<th>MONDAY</th>
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In your thesis:
✓ Name Your Generation
✓ Include the three characteristics you will address
✓ How do you explain why your generation is the way it is - think about how attitudes and actions are reflected.

Sample Thesis Statements
Remember: These are NOT perfect, and some are missing key elements – I don’t want you just copying them! These are just to get you thinking!
Generation ******* has made a negative impact on society through their views of materialism, social communication, and lack of values.
We are Generation ********, capable of exposing the issues of materialism, lack of identity, and dastardly values, but incapable of action.
The ******* generation has gone through many changes and developments; however, our values, home life, and work ethic reflect the New Age belief that no matter what goes on around us we will remain secure and strong, in order to leave a positive mark on the world.
Despite some rash judgments, Generation ******* can be collectively understood through the influence of technology, importance of education and fiscal responsibility to properly define and establish its identity in a positive manner.
Through politics, relationships, and environmental concerns, Generation ******* has influenced the importance of selfishness, and erased the meaning of putting others first.
Questions?