

# Un(dis)covering America Writing Assignment

## Assignment

For this assignment, you will play the role of an archeologist alive in 3023. Imagine that you have just discovered three ancient monuments in the former American capital, Washington D.C. The publisher, *National Geographic*, has asked that you write a short article (1200 – 1800 words) on the discovery for their readers. Your task is to describe and interpret these three monuments to tell *National Geographic* readers what these monuments represented about America and the American culture about 1,000 years ago.

## Purpose and Goals

- Apply methods of observation and interpretation learned in our HUM 210 course (Learning Outcome 1).
- Effectively use primary and secondary research (Learning Outcome 2).

## Genre

This article should read similar to popular magazine articles in [National Geographic Magazine](#) that cover archeology. The genre components of this type of article are...

- **Content:** A story about your discovery, observations of the three monuments, interpretations about each monument, and a final conclusion telling the reader what these monuments tell us (overall) about the culture of America. Observations include descriptions about the physical monuments (primary source). Interpretation includes analysis of your observations about the monuments and use of secondary sources.
- **Organization:** Begin with a short story about the discovery. Middle paragraphs detail and interpret each monument. The article concludes with an overall takeaway about what these three monuments tell us about the American culture based on the observations and interpretations.
- **Research:** Primary research based on virtual visits to the monuments (Google Street View) and images of monuments. Secondary research includes 1 peer-reviewed source per monument (3 peer-reviewed sources minimum).
- **Style:** The article is meant to be newsworthy, engaging, and somewhat formal.
- **Format:** MLA style citations and formatting.
- **Length:** 1200 – 1800 words.

## Audience

- The audience trends towards the educated. They will likely have some contextual knowledge about America and American culture. The audience reads the magazine for infotainment (to be entertained while informed).

## Steps:

1. Pre-writing and Research:
  - a. Complete the Primary Research assignment. In this informal assignment, you will virtually visit the three monuments with Google Street View and take observational notes about your three monuments. Observational notes include vivid descriptions about each physical monument. Upload Due 1/24.
  - b. Annotated Bibliography: Create and submit an Annotated Bibliography of the sources you will likely use in your article. Each source should be identified with an MLA citation, and include a short summary of the source. You should include one peer-reviewed sources per monument (3 total). Due 2/2.
2. Drafting
  - a. The draft should be your first attempt at completing the full assignment but will only be graded based on meeting the minimum word count (1200 words). Bring this draft to class for a short workshop. Due 2/9.
3. Finished Article
  - a. The finished article is due 2/16.

## Resources

- Example Articles: [National Geographic Magazine](#)
- [Washington D.C. Monuments](#) List.
- To find visuals of the monuments, perform a [Google Street View](#) search of your monument, or search the monuments using [Google Images](#).
- Peer-Reviewed Articles: Use the [Red Rocks Library](#) to find peer-reviewed sources. You can make an appointment with a librarian if you are unfamiliar with using the library.
- Citations: Meet with a Red Rocks librarian by appointment, a [Writing Center](#) tutor, me, or use Purdue's OWL MLA [website](#).
- Writing the essay: Writing Center or me (office hours, email, or by appointment).

## How it will be assessed

The finished article is worth 100 points (10% of course grade) and it will be assessed with the following rubric:

Criteria with descriptions	Meets Expectations (20 points)	Partially Meets Expectations (10 points)	Does Not Meet Expectations (0 points)
<b>Observations:</b> Accurate and vivid descriptions of the three monuments.			
<b>Interpretations:</b> Interpretations are based on the observations and the secondary research. Interpretations use cultural analysis (see pages 30-44 in the text book).			
<b>Use of Secondary Research:</b> Use of 1 peer-reviewed academic article per monument (3 total, minimum).			
<b>Style:</b> The article is written to be newsworthy, engaging, and somewhat formal.			
<b>Format and length</b> MLA, 1200 – 1800 words.			

Overall Feedback: