



**IOE**

**INFORMAL OPINION ESSAY**



# THE BASICS

# BASICS

- o Basically, this is a **PRO-CON paper** –
  - o Choose a side of a serious societal issue
  - o Argue *for* it
    - o OR
  - o Argue *against* it
    - o (*not both!*)
- o **LENGTH = 2-3 pages**

# BASICS

## “INFORMAL”

- o as in **no research**
- o not as in poor writing, slang, or other informalities
  - o While this is “informal” in terms of no research & your opinion,
  - o It will not read like a text, email, or blog
- o Maintain **FORMAL ACADEMIC WRITING** standards & **PROOFREAD!**

# BASICS

## “OPINION”

- o make a Claim concerning your topic & support it
  - o For example, what is your opinion regarding abortion *or* health care reform *or* immigration?
  - o argue for *or* against – we should *or* we should not
- o *no research* - just your organized, well-worded ideas on the topic

# BASICS

## “ESSAY”

- o follow the tenets of the “**Essay Basics**”
  - o **TITLE**
  - o **INTRODUCTION**
    - o concluding w/a **THESIS STATEMENT**
  - o **BODY**
    - o 1 reason/argument per paragraph
    - o 3 paragraphs
    - o arranged in the **EMPHATIC ORDER**
  - o **CONCLUSION**

# BASICS

## **\*NO RESEARCH\***

o none, nada

o zip, zilch, zero

## o SUPPORT =

o personal anecdotes

o hypotheticals



# TOPICS



# TOPICS

Since there is to be *no research*

- o Choose a topic that **you are quite familiar with**
  - o One that you have probably “**gone off on a rant**” with before
    - o Do your family/friends groan, “Here she goes again!” when you bring up this topic?
  - o Perhaps one related to **your major** or major interest

# TOPICS

## Still...

- o While the topic is meaningful to you
- o It should still have **some societal importance**
  - o **Something that affects the rest of us**
  - o Something *beyond* “my girlfriend drives me crazy” or “my parents should allow me to do whatever I want”
- o some **hot-button** topic
- o a contemporary **controversial issue**

# TOPICS

## OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS:

- o We have access to the *Opposing Viewpoints* database
- o & on it are “opposing viewpoints” on various topics
  - o 2-sided issues of societal importance
- o So looking at its LIST of SUBJECTS could give you an idea for a topic for your paper
  - o **but remember: NO RESEARCH**
  - o (*you’re just looking here for topic ideas*)

# TOPICS

## Also

- o I skim the newspaper shortly before this assignment
- o & “**rip from the headlines**” a list of possible topics
  - o local & national news
  - o sports
  - o entertainment
  - o even the **ads** can give us ideas for topics



**SET UP**

# SET UP

- o FONT =

- o Times New Roman

- o 12"

- o LENGTH =

- o 2½ to 3 pages

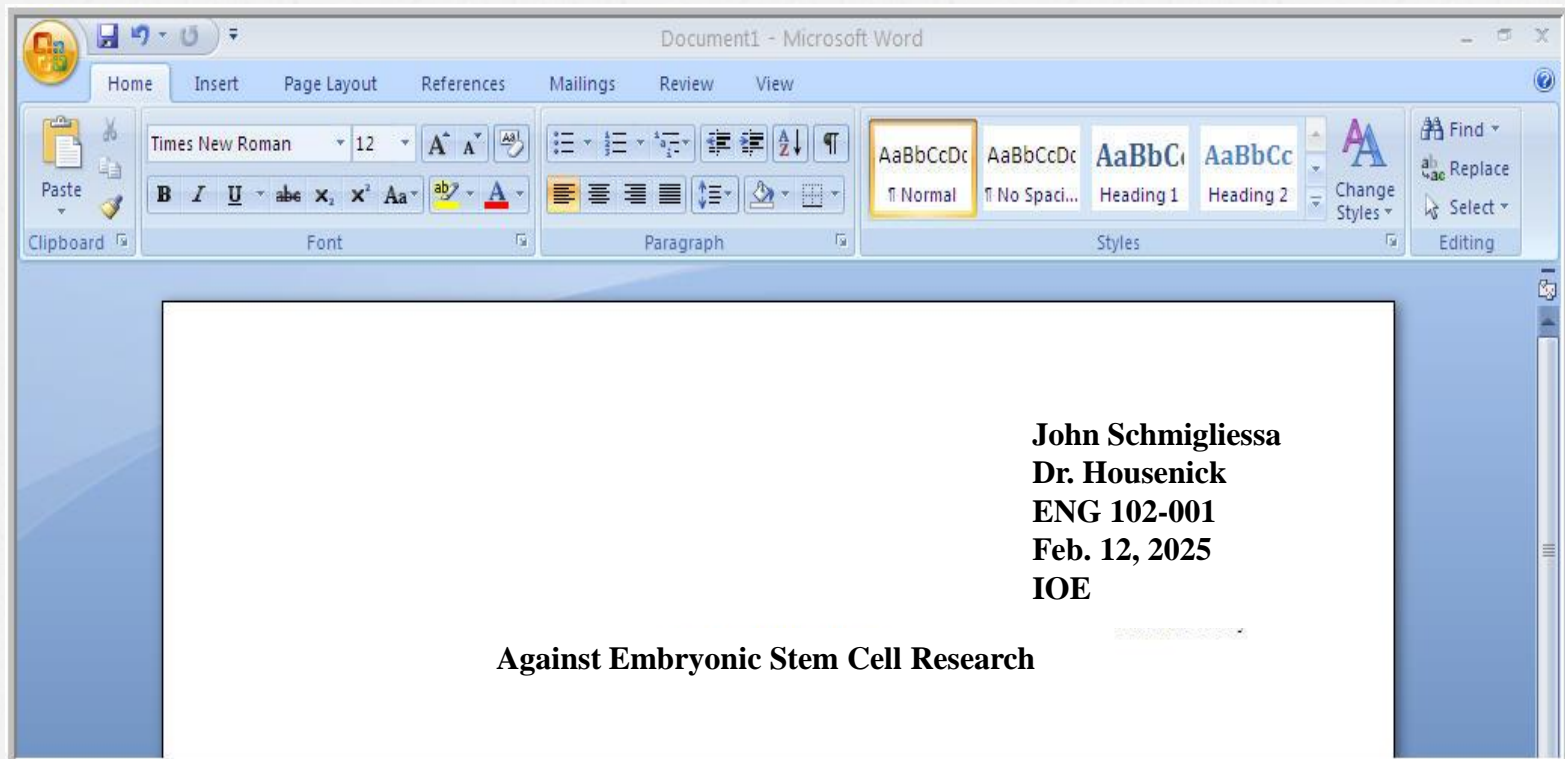
- o (certainly no fewer)

# SET UP

- o **NO** cover page
- o On the **top right** of page #1
  - o **HEADER** (*single-spaced*)
    - o Your Name
    - o My Name (Dr. Housenick)
    - o Course & Section #
    - o Due Date
    - o Name of Essay
      - o see **The House Rules & Essay Basics** docs

# SET UP

## o PAGE #1 HEADER



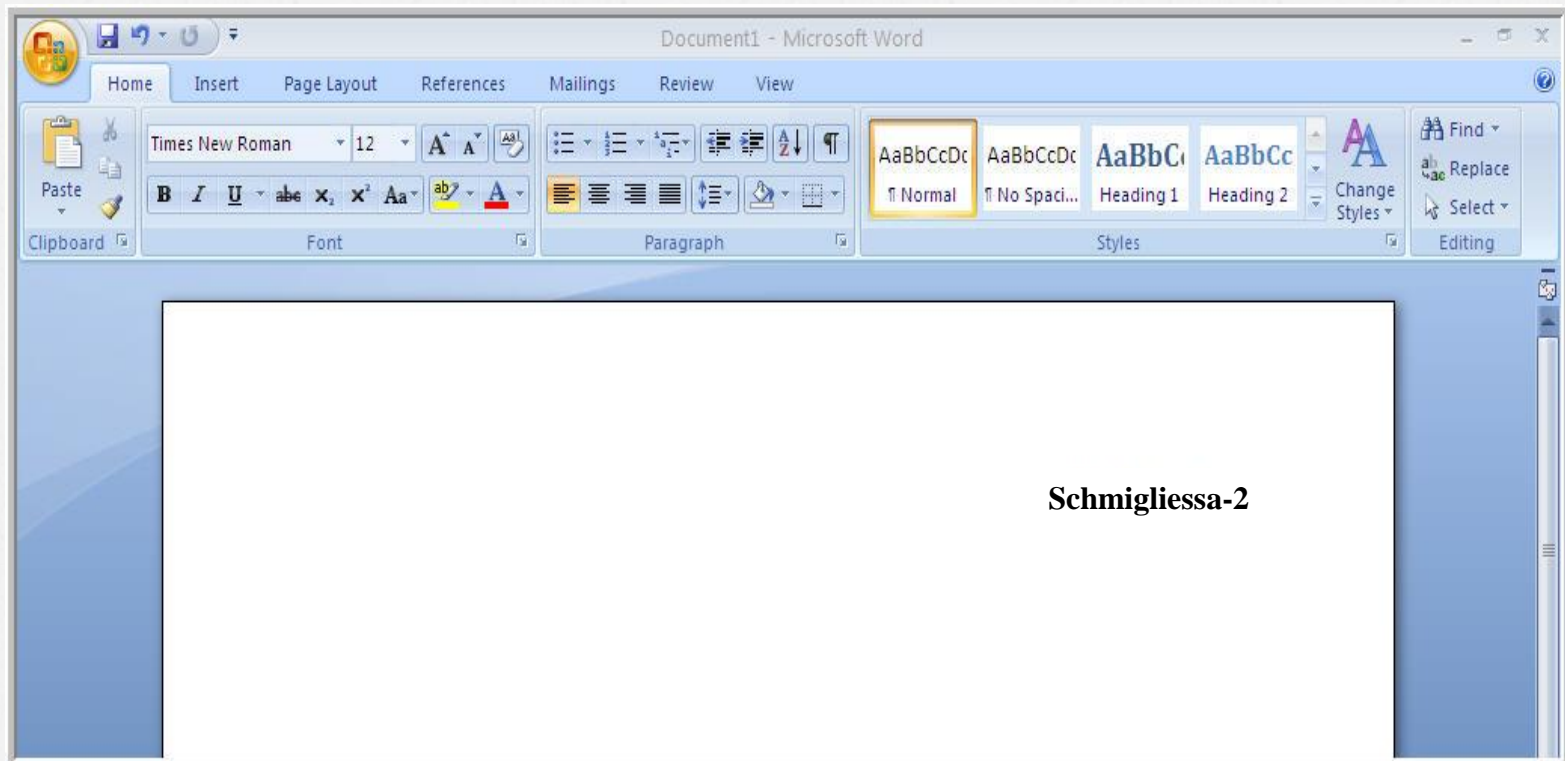


# SET UP

- o On the **top right** of pages #2, 3, 4
  - o **HEADER**
    - o Your Last Name
    - o Hyphen
    - o Page Number
      - o see Word 2010 Changes docs

# SET UP

## o PAGES #2+ HEADER



# SET UP

- o TITLE

- o **Centered**

- o **No Bold**

- o **No Underlining**

- o **No Quotation Marks**

- o **No ALLCAPS**

- o see slide above

# SET UP

- o **TITLE**

- o **Make clear your ARGUMENT**

- o **TOPIC + MAIN IDEA**

- o **For Same-Sex Marriages**

- o **Against Same-Sex Marriages**

- o **In Support of the New Rules in Football**

- o **Opposing the President's Gun Control Proposal**



# STRUCTURE

# STRUCTURE

- o **Headers**
- o **Title (For *or* Against)**
- o **Introduction w/ Thesis**
- o **Argument #1**
- o **Argument #2**
- o **Argument #3 (*most important*)**
- o **Conclusion**

# INTRODUCTION

- o Use the **GENERAL CLIMATE** to introduce your issue
  - o Its **CONTEXT**
    - o What's been going on recently with it?
    - o Who's been saying what about it?
    - o Any laws, law suits, protests, marches, speeches?
    - o Has Michael Moore made a documentary on it?



NO  
RESEARCH

# INTRODUCTION

- o **END** the Intro with your **THESIS STATEMENT**
- o **TOPIC + MAIN IDEA + SUPPORT**
  - o your **ISSUE** +
  - o your **STANCE/opinion** on that issue +
  - o your **EVIDENCE** in support of that stance
    - o your 3 arguments



# BODY PARAGRAPHS

- o **ONE** argument per paragraph
- o **THREE** total paragraphs
- o arranged in the **EMPHATIC ORDER**
  - o best for last
  - o and say so

# PARAGRAPH STRUCTURE

- o **NAME** the point, argument, reason
  - o **TOPIC SENTENCE**
    - o clearly **announce** the point
  - o **EXPLAIN** or **clarify** it
  - o **ILLUSTRATE** the point
    - o anecdote, hypothetical
  - o **REITERATE** the point
    - o **CLINCHER SENTENCE**
      - o **reiterate** & clearly **conclude** the paragraph/point



# CONCLUSION

- o **REITERATE** your main points
  - o echo your **General Context**
  - o repeat your **Thesis**
  - o repeat your main arguments in **support** of that claim
- o State your **PURPOSE**
  - o **SO WHAT?!**
  - o *inductively* move away from your point
  - o and put it into a larger perspective
    - o Why should we care, How will this affect us?
    - o What's at stake here?



# **SUBMISSIONS**

# SUBMISSIONS

- o **SUBMIT** your essay to **ME** by its due date
  - o I will grade *only* this copy

~~o **SUBMIT** your essay to **TURNITIN.COM**~~

~~o too~~

~~o to guarantee its authenticity~~

~~o no grade will be released if a copy is not submitted to TII~~



**ASSIGNMENT  
OBJECTIVES**

# ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES

- o narrow a *broad* subject to a *focused* topic
- o engage in a structured academic, reasoned argument
- o make a claim & support it with appropriate, relevant grounds
- o successfully apply the Essay Basics
- o proof read for grammar, mechanics, & style
- o follow directions well
- ~~o utilize the *Turnitin.com* tool~~



**ASSIGNMENT  
REMINDERS**



# ASSIGNMENT REMINDERS

## o Page #1 Header:

- o Your Name
- o Dr. Housenick
- o Course & Section #
- o Due Date
- o IOE

## o Pages #2+ Header:

- o your last name + hyphen + page number
  - o Schmigliessa-2
- o see the “Word 2010 Changes” sheet

**\*NO RESEARCH\***

# ASSIGNMENT REMINDERS

## o Title:

- o your argument
- o **TOPIC + MAIN IDEA**
  - o For Military Action on North Korea
  - o Against Turnpike Deregulation

## o Thesis:

- o your argument + support
- o **TOPIC + MAIN IDEA + SUPPORT**
  - o Thus, I support military action on North Korea because of their nuclear arsenal, their ties to al-Qaeda, and their involvement with Dennis Rodman.

**\*NO RESEARCH\***

# ASSIGNMENT REMINDERS

## o Point-of-View:

- o do not use **YOU** throughout
- o avoid **RHETORICAL QUESTIONS**

## o Pronoun-Agreement:

- o person & they/their = *disagree*
- o person & he/she or his/her = *agree*
- o persons or people & they/their = *agree*

**\*NO RESEARCH\***

# ASSIGNMENT REMINDERS

## o Paragraph Structure:

- o **NAME** the point/argument in the *1<sup>st</sup>* **Topic Sentence**
- o **EXPLAIN** the point
- o **ILLUSTRATE** the point
- o **REITERATE** the point in the *last* **Clincher Sentence**

## o Emphatic Order:

- o save your “best” argument for **LAST**
  - o best as in “most significant,” “most important”
- o & say so, in your Topic Sentence

**\*NO RESEARCH\***

# ASSIGNMENT REMINDERS

**\*DO NOT\***

- o *do not* perform research of any kind
- o *do not* argue for **AND** against (*just 1 side*)
- o *do not* write a **Narration, Illustration, Process, Classification, Contrast, or Effects** essay
- o *do not* refute the “other side” of the argument (*just prove your side*)
- o *do not* use “you” (*2<sup>nd</sup> person POV*)
- o *do not* use **Rhetorical Questions**