

Essay #3 – Exploring a New York World's Fair – Milestone #1 – Page One and Works Cited Page with 3 Sources

Our third paper (a short research paper) will let you explore the 1939 New York World's Fair using 2 COURSE PACK sources and 2 'responsible' historical photos of the Fair from the La Guardia and Wagner Archives for a total of 4 sources.

- For this next 'essay with sources', you should aim to use 4 sources:

Source #1 – BOOK EXCERPT (from class!) – in COURSE PACK / e-reading online

- David Gelernter's book excerpt from the Course Pack (pp. 122-160):

Gelernter, David. 1939: *The Lost World of the Fair*. Avon, 1995.

THIS IS THE CORRECT CITE – COPY AND USE IT FOR YOUR 1st SOURCE!

Source #2 – An Encyclopedia from the Course Pack on the World's Fair

□ 1 encyclopedia article on the World's Fair –

CHOOSE ONE – Course Pack, pp. 175-185

<https://bit.ly/3L2M96A>

Busà, Alessandro. "New York World's Fair, 1939–1940." *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*, edited by Ray

Hutchison, vol. 2, SAGE Reference, 2010, pp. 561-562. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Accessed 10 November 2022.

"Cultural and Social Aspects of the New York World's Fair, 1939." *American Decades Primary Sources*,

edited by Cynthia Rose, vol. 4: 1930-1939, Gale, 2004, pp. 440- 446. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Accessed 10 November 2022.

Helfgott, Isadora Anderson. "New York World's Fair (1939–1940)." *Encyclopedia of the Great Depression*,

edited by Robert S. McElvaine, vol. 2, Macmillan Reference USA, 2004, pp. 716-718. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Accessed 10 November 2022.

COPY ONE OF THESE CITES – USE IT FOR YOUR 2nd SOURCE!

Sources #3 & #4 – 2 Historical Photos on the World's Fair

- Choose **2 historical photographs** related to the World's Fair from the **LaGuardia / Wagner Archives (Queens Collection)**.

***CLICK ON THIS LINK TO FIND 2 HISTORICAL PHOTOS – CHOOSE 2 THAT FIT YOUR PAPER (TOPIC 1 : TECHNOLOGY at the Fair –OR- TOPIC 2: CARS, HIGHWAYS AND SUBURBS at the Fair –OR- TOPIC 3: COMMERCIALISM at the Fair)

<https://bit.ly/2TQWGK6>

(190+ historical photos on the World's Fair – Also posted online on eng101.lagcconline.com)

Use this link to generate the correct citation for your photo:

bit.ly/3O8hk3r

- 1) Type in the Photo #
- 2) Type in the Caption (not all caps.)
- 3) Type in the Date
- 4) Click the Generate Citation button.
- 5) Then copy your citation to your Works Cited sources. (Ctrl-C / Ctrl-V in Windows)

***THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF SOURCES FOR A PASSING ESSAY IS 3 (including the Course Pack Gelernter book).

*** ESSAY #4 -- PAGE ONE WITH THESIS:**

DUE TUE., 11/29 (11:59 pm)

As before, submit your Milestone #1 to _____
submit101.lagcconline.com

FORMAT: Typed, double-spaced; the first page of your paper, including introduction and thesis statement (agree / disagree with prompt thesis statement).

Works Cited page with at least 3 sources. (Try to include as many of your 4 sources as you can find.)

• TOPIC QUESTIONS – Answer ~~one~~ of these prompts for your Research Paper topic and thesis. MAKE SURE YOU ANSWER THE PROMPT DIRECTLY.

2) According to David Gelernter, a well-respected computer expert and author of 1939: *The Lost World of the Fair*, he writes that “we sometimes think of ours as the technology age, but that’s nonsense. Older people at the fairgrounds had lived through the most spectacular technology-

driven world transformation in history” (262). **As judged by the World’s Fair of 1939-40, technology was more “revolutionary” for people’s everyday lives in the 1930s than today’s Internet age. Do you agree or disagree?** Build an argument using your sources that explores the changing world of technology in the 1930s and today that clearly argues one side or another. Some questions to consider: considering Gelernter’s list of inventions (on p. 128) and today’s technological changes, is he right to claim that it was the 1930s (and earlier) were filled with more transformation for ordinary Americans than today? Also consider: does the fact that this study of the World’s Fair was written before the arrival of the Internet change or qualify his argument? For your discussion, concentrate on sources on the 1930s and the World’s Fair, rather than ‘reporting’ on today’s technology (though you should mention recent inventions, of course). Evidence to consider here includes the Futurama exhibit, which seems to have predicted the shape and appearance of American cities and highways in 1960s and beyond.

2) As we have seen in class, several exhibits at the 1939-40 World's Fair promoted a vision of the future based on cars, highways and suburbs. For example, General Motor’s Futurama exhibit showed fairgoers what the United States would look like in the 1960s, with many superhighways and cars. Democracy, the exhibit inside the Perisphere, showed a ‘utopia’ of suburbia (where people lived) and cities (where they worked). However, as other writers and sources suggest, there are real problems with a suburban lifestyle based on cars and consumption, such as global warming and running out of resources. **By promoting a vision of cars, highways and suburbs, the designers of the World’s Fair deserve some of the responsibility for today’s problems of global warming and running out of natural resources. Do you agree or disagree?** For this topic, you should use Gelernter as a source and one of the other sources from class (like the *The Story of Stuff* video or Seth Bauer’s “American Suburbia vs. the Planet”). You will find plenty of ‘external’ sources on global warming to argue the impact of cars (and burning coal to power the suburban lifestyle), as well as the problem the impact of consumerism on the planet. Choose one or two that make sense to use to help build your argument. For photos, you might choose 2 historical photos of Futurama or Democracy and / or a photo that shows ‘urban sprawl’ or something to do with the impact of global warming (such as flooding or destructive storms).

3) When describing the 1939-40 World’s Fair, some writers have criticized the fact that so many corporate pavilions or exhibits seemed to want to sell something to the American public. As David Gelernter writes, “The most common and persistent charge against the fair[s] is commercialism” (358). **The commercialism at the World’s Fair of 1939-40 was a pervasive influence and meant that fairgoers could not get a realistic picture of technology or the future. Do you agree or disagree?** Questions to consider: Did exhibits like Futurama transform American cities for the worse by promoting highways espoused by General Motors or ‘power brokers’ like Robert Moses at the expense of communities and neighborhoods, as well as public transportation systems? Also, today, we are concerned with carbon dioxide emissions from consuming fossil fuels from cars. Did the World’s Fair contribute to this problem in American life by promoting suburbia and its ‘car culture’? Gelernter argues that the 1939 World’s Fair moved beyond corporate advertising to represent a real sense of confidence and American optimism about technology. Other writers that you will find in your research have been critical of the World’s Fair’s promotion of cars and many other products. Who is right? Develop an argument that choose one side or another while giving us a balanced account of the arguments on both sides.

• **ESSAY #4 TOPIC WRITE-UP – WHAT TO TURN IN FOR TUE., 11/29:**

One page, double spaced (about 200 words) with a readable draft of your ‘Page One’ with framing quote, thesis, which should contain:

- 1) About a **one-page introduction** that guides the reader to your topic. Don't use 'I' – write this paper in the correct 'voice' for a short research paper.
- 2) A **clear thesis** or main argument that will 'frame' discussion; this should directly respond to the topic statement with an 'agree' or 'disagree' statement. USE THE EXACT WORDING OF THE THESIS STATEMENT.

Based on several sources, **I agree** that [COPY OUT THESIS STATEMENT].

-OR-

Based on several sources, **I disagree** that [COPY OUT THESIS STATEMENT].

- 3) A Works Cited page listing with at least 3 sources with correct MLA citation style. (Use our sample MLA citation entries for correct formatting or the MLA Citation Assistant, available at **blt.ly/3WppOqF** for the citations for your historical photos.)

- 4) Include printouts of any photographs you are using (after your Works Cited page).

Hint: You can make a screenshot of anything on your Windows desktop by pressing Alt-Print Screen hotkey in Windows. Then paste the photo into your Milestone AFTER your Works Cited page. (Ctrl-V).

***THE GOAL OF THIS ASSIGNMENT IS TO GET YOU TO THINK ABOUT AND CHOOSE A TOPIC, GET YOUR SOURCES TOGETHER, AS WELL AS START WITH A FIRST DRAFT WITH A SOLID PAGE ONE with THESIS, and CREATE A SOLID WORKS CITED PAGE.**