

Sample Essay Assignment from WRRH 100/Salibrici : Analysis and Argument

For this essay, I ask that you take a definite position about an idea that originates from Hawking's, A Brief History of Time, and develop an argument that defends your particular position. This will be the overall subject for the essay that everyone shares in common. Your topic will be the individual approach you choose to take.

You may choose one of the following options for your argumentative essay:

1. Choose one of the following quotes from Hawking's A Brief History of Time and write an essay that argues in favor or against the idea embraced by the quote. You are free to use any of the texts we have read this semester as support for your position. You are also free to use personal experience to support your position, provided that you do not rely exclusively on personal experience. You must use at least one text. MLA format is required.
 - a. "Seeing is believing." (Stephen Hawking's, Universe, Episode I. PBS Home Video, 1997).

You might use the above quote in conjunction with this one: "Sometimes the most real things you can't see." (Bill Moyers with Oren Lyons, The Faithkeeper, Mystic Fire Video, 1991).
 - b. "Ever since the dawn of creation, people have not been content to see events as unconnected and inexplicable. They have craved an understanding of the underlying order of the world." (Hawking 13-14).
 - c. "Observers who are moving relative to each other will assign different times and positions to the same events." (Hawking 22).
2. Using any of the definitions of rhetoric provided on the syllabus or class handouts as well as the ideas about intertextuality in James Porter's article ("Intertextuality and the

Discourse Community," from Rhetoric Review), argue that Hawking's book, A Brief History of Time, is either effective or ineffective in translating scientific ideas to the general reading public. If you choose this topic, you will be handling the material that Hawking covers in his book as the primary basis of support for the position that you take.

MLA format for documentation is required.