PCC ENG 121
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Final Exam Instructions

TASK
Within the allotted time for today’s final class meeting, you will write a unified, organized, and detailed essay in which you:

1) **Summarize** "Why Bother?"* for an audience who has not read the article.
2) **Respond** to Pollan's article with your position on the matter.
3) **Support** and explain your own agreement or disagreement with the author's ideas by drawing on your own critical thinking, prior knowledge, and past experiences.

GUIDELINES
Make sure to include all elements specified below in your summary-response final exam essay:

**Summary**
- **Summarize** the author’s main points accurately, concisely, and comprehensively.
- **Provide** context for the source (author, audience, purpose, genre, etc.).
- **Integrate** at least one paraphrase or direct quote from the article, citing it accordingly.

**Response**
- **State** your position on this issue (your thesis) clearly and directly.
- **Explain** why you agree or disagree with what the writer says.
- **Support** your position with specific examples from your own experience, observation, or outside reading.

**Composition & Layout**
- **Organize** your ideas carefully for coherence and unity.
- **Write** clearly using standard grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- **Format** your essay in a Word document following MLA conventions for document layout.
- **Cite** the article fully and accurately at the end of your essay according to MLA conventions for citation format.

**STRATEGIES & ADVICE**
1. **Read.** Carefully read several times, working through the stages of close reading.
2. **Annotate.** Make any notes in the margins that help you better understand what the author is saying (including noting difficult passages, central ideas, and striking points so you can find them more easily).
3. **Summarize.** Try this several ways; for example, try summarizing the whole essay without looking at the article. Be sure to include the name of the article, author’s name and the author’s main point in the beginning.
4. **Reflect.** Think of your response as a reflection on how your wrestling with the text has expanded and deepened your thinking about its ideas.
5. **Draft.** Compose your essay, making sure to use clear topic statements (unity), transitions (coherence), and paraphrases and quotations, as appropriate (source use).
6. **Cite.** Use attributive tags and in-text citations to show which ideas are the author’s and which are yours.
7. **Review.** When you’ve written a draft that you like, go back and check for accuracy against the original. Have you spelled the author’s name correctly? Have you included all of the main ideas? Have you included selective supporting detail?
8. **Revise.** Rewrite your summary and response based on what you find. Make sure it reads as a complete work, not a list.

* "Why Bother?" (available in D2L as a PDF) is an excerpt from the 2nd edition of the anthology From Inquiry to Academic Writing: A Text and Reader, edited by Stuart Greene and April Lidinsky, published in 2012 by Bedford/St. Martin's in Boston, MA.