

Assignment #10

- 1) READ “The Crazy State of Psychiatry” by Marcia Angell, a former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, and “Lies, Damned Lies and Medical Science” by David H. Freedman. Freedman is a writer for *The Atlantic* magazine, where this article originally appeared in 2010.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION: Both these essay-articles highlight ways in which medicine departs from what we think of as the scientific method; both have implications for us as health care consumers, for the medical establishment, for purveyors of pharmaceuticals, and for public health policy. What, if anything, surprises you in these readings? What arguments do you see the writers making? What questions do the articles raise for you? What seems most important to you as an individual and to us as a society?

- 2) WRITE: Proposal for the investigative essay—a researched essay of 2500-3000 words (approx. 8-10 pages double-spaced)

Please write me a 1-¶ proposal for your long essay. The topic is of your choosing. Keep in mind that this won't simply be an explanatory or informative essay/article; it should explore an issue and develop your own point of view. It should aim to answer a question.

Another way to think of it:

I am researching [X] so that I can learn [Y] so that [significance]

Your proposal should include:

- Name your topic as precisely as you can
- List the main question you want to answer; you may include an additional 2-3 questions. Note: Your main question should simply be a question of information (“What is X?”). It should be a question that requires some interpretation.
- Why does this topic interest you?
- Why do you think it will or should interest readers?

Submit your proposal online. I'll respond to it, and we'll discuss them in class.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21W.035 Science Writing and New Media: Elements of Science Writing for the Public
Spring 2013

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.