

Part 2. Foucault Paper Assignment

Paper #4--Michel Foucault "Panopticism"

OBJECTIVE: After having read Foucault's essay, we'll engage in a conversation with him on a topic relevant to the concerns he raises. Creating a "conversation" with Foucault and other sources via quotations that are thoughtfully included will continue to be a major part of our work.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Follow basic formatting conventions specified on our "Style Sheet"
- A thesis (arguable assertion, the writer's opinion) will provide a central focus for the 6-8 page paper.
- At least four but no more than ten credible, well-selected sources will be included in the paper.
- Sources must represent a number of kinds of materials, including at least one book and two *scholarly* journals. Other sources may be from the Internet, mass audience periodicals, documentaries, interviews, etc. so long as they represent *variety* and are credible.
- Documentation (in text citations) and a Works Cited list in MLA style will be required.

PAPER TOPIC:

We'll approach this topic a little differently from past papers. First, we'll select several potential topic areas from the key words/phrases below. You can try to combine and/or alter these key words as you see fit. Second, using these key words, we'll do some research to find books, scholarly journals, Internet sites, and other sources that seem to tie in to these key words. Forum #11 begins this research process. Third, we'll narrow our topic to a particular idea after having read and selected a few sources that provide information and ideas useful to our topic. Fourth, we'll begin drafting and, in the process, discover a thesis. Here are some key word/phrase areas to choose from:

Michel Foucault

Panopticon/Panoptic/Panopticism

Surveillance [and power or control]

Discipline mechanism [and power]

Disciplinary society [and power]

Inquisition or examination

Postmodern (or post-modern) control or discipline

Police [and privacy or control or discipline]

Control [and prisons or schools or hospitals or other institutions]

You can add specific key words that might pertain to your topic if you know them at this time. For example, one student will research surveillance and control in

casinos; therefore, he can also do searches on "casinos" to help produce information.

Your paper may not be directly about Foucault or panopticism, but it will connect to his ideas and find some of his language (quotations) useful to your paper. For example, you might write about an idea brought up in your group work on Thurs. 11/7. People talked about how our society is highly disciplined even though it doesn't seem like it when compared with a totalitarian government. You also talked about whether or not our disciplinary society's justice and legislative branches are as truly egalitarian as they're meant to be or if power operates in subtle ways to make these systems unequal for individuals. Some people talked about shopping malls and commercial surveillance, Others talked about the prevalence of video surveillance in our communities and Internet surveillance in our own homes.