

Reaction Paper Assignment

Due: Tuesday, January 19, 9:00 A.M.

Mail your paper to eroberts@cs.stanford.edu

For the reading component of STS 200, your first assignment consists of the following steps:

1. Read Mark Bauerlein's 2008 book, *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future (Or, Don't Trust Anyone Under 30)*. In the calendar handout, I've suggested a schedule for reading that divides the book over the first two weeks, but the sooner you finish it, the more time you'll have for the paper.
2. Pick some argument in the book that you find particularly aggravating or misguided. (If everything Bauerlein says seems reasonable, keep in mind that this is *your* generation he's slamming.)
3. Write a 3-5 page paper in which you apply the analytical techniques you've learned in your previous STS courses to refute that claim. Papers will be graded on the clarity of the writing, the cogency of your argument, and the strength of your evidence. To develop that evidence, you will have to find and cite additional sources in your paper. Merely *believing* that something Bauerlein says is wrong is not in itself evidence. You need to do a better job than he does of finding sources to substantiate your claims.

Remember that your paper should conform to the following technical guidelines:

- The electronic copy should be in Word or PDF format using 12-point Times New Roman font, standard margins (1.00 to 1.25 inch), double spacing, and page numbers.
- All citations should be in American Psychological Association (APA) format.