Position Paper Assignment Description
Below are sample assignment instructions for the Position Paper Assignment. Please adapt these instructions to suit your course theme and schedule. Students will write a 3-4 page Position Paper, worth 15% of their overall grade. The purpose of the Position Paper is for students to articulate an argument on an issue with which they are familiar (i.e. a thesis), contextualize their thesis within a broader conversation, and appropriately construct their argument for a general and divided audience. This assignment should not require students to do independent research; students should use sources already read/covered in class (including sources used for the Rhetorical Analyses) and/or a small set of additional sources pre-selected by the instructor (for example, a folder of five or six additional topical sources in Moodle). Please use the Position Paper & Scholarly Research Paper Rubric to grade final drafts of the Position Paper.

Basic Assignment Instructions
Write a 3-4 page essay in which you join the conversation about our class theme and articulate your own views in relation to the views advanced in at least two of the essays we've read over the last two weeks. Try to focus on one particular issue rather than making overly broad claims. Develop your argument by defending your claim and showing how it relates to the positions of your sources. I encourage you to use templates and wording from They Say/I Say to show the relationships between your own argument and those of your sources.

Your paper must be organized coherently and present a clear, consistent thesis. Your intended audience includes your peers in this class, the authors of your sources, and me. Use summary, paraphrase, and direct quotation strategically. Be sure to acknowledge your sources, using in-text parenthetical citation and attributive tags.

Assignment Instructions Adapted for Food-Themed Course
Write a 3-4 page essay in which you join the conversation about a food-related issue and articulate your own views in relation to the views advanced in at least two of the essays we've read over the last two weeks. Try to focus on one particular issue rather than making very broad claims like "organic food is bad" or "fast food is to blame for obesity in America." Develop your argument by defending your claim and showing how it relates to the positions of your sources. I encourage you to use templates and wording from They Say/I Say to show the relationships between your own argument and those of your sources.

Your paper must be organized coherently and present a clear, consistent thesis. Your intended audience should include your peers in this class, the authors of your sources, and me. Use summary, paraphrase, and direct quotation strategically. Be sure to acknowledge your sources, using in-text parenthetical citation and attributive tags.