

Assignment #3
Who's Afraid of Today's "Monster Homes"?

Background:

In the fall of 2005, David Duffield, founder of PeopleSoft, announced plans to build a 72,000 square foot home in Alamo, California. But before he could build his dream home, he would have to tear down the property's existing 8,000 square foot house. Needless to say, his plan attracted a lot of attention, with detractors arguing that a house that size is obscene, and supporters arguing that "it's his money, he can do what he wants with it."

Assignment:

What do you think? Is it right for Duffield to build his 72,000 square foot home? Of course, to answer this question, you must consider issues of legality, morality, and prudence, and each of you will weigh these issues differently. In addition to explaining what factored into your decision, you may want to consider and discuss the factors driving this trend toward oversized homes, as well as whether, and how, it fits into other current trends. You will definitely need to consider the consequences of the trend toward bigger and bigger homes.

In writing this paper, you should draw on the following: the articles I handed out in class, Blakely and Snyder's article "The Search for Community" (in *Crossroads*), Locke's "The Origins of Property, Hardin's "The Tragedy of the Commons," Professor Mathur's presentation at the last Friday forum, and any additional materials you have gathered yourself.

Specifics of the paper:

- Your introduction should include the necessary background information about the trend toward bigger homes in general, and "monster homes" or "McMansions" in particular.
- Your thesis should clearly express your **opinion** about whether you feel it is "right" for Duffield, or anyone, to build a 72,000 square foot home.
- The body of your essay should provide sufficient evidence from the various readings and explanation of your own to support your thesis.
- Body paragraphs should generally develop a single point or idea related to the thesis and should begin with topic sentences that make that point clear to your reader.
- Direct quotations should be introduced, punctuated and cited correctly.

- As with your previous paper, you will include a Works Cited list with your final draft.

Special note regarding paper headings:

The following comes directly from *Handbook of College Research*, by Robert Perrin (page 211).

A paper in MLA style has no separate title page. Instead, in the upper left-hand corner of the first page, two spaces below the header, type on separate lines your name, your instructor's name, the course number, and the date. Two lines below the date, center the paper's title. Capitalize all important words in the title but do not italicize it, place it in quotation marks, or follow it with a period. Two lines below the title, begin the first paragraph of the paper.

Final draft due:

Friday, April 7