

Research Essay

Overview

This Research Essay will ask you to synthesize your research and writing from this semester into a single, coherent academic essay that represents a polished finished product of approximately 10-12 pages in length. In order to accomplish that goal, you must have a well-developed thesis argument that responds to the research problem you have written in the Proposal and Annotated Bibliography assignments.

Specifics

Use our readings from *The Craft of Research* to guide your outlining, drafting, and revision of this paper. The following categories will be assessed:

- **Argumentation.** Does the essay have an insightful thesis that responds to your research question? Does it support that claim with logical reasons that are well supported by evidence? Does the essay appropriately incorporate acknowledgements and responses, as well as warrants when needed?
- **Research.** Does the essay use sources to actively support, complicate, and extend the essay's thesis (rather than summarizing them in a list)? Are the primary sources specific and appropriate to the project? How fully does the essay investigate the complexity of your topic from a scholarly perspective? This includes both the *amount* of scholarly source research and the *relevance* of that research to your topic.
- **Organization and Style.** Does the essay exhibit coherence through a logical flow of ideas and the use of well-developed paragraphs and transitions?
- **Grammar and Mechanics.** This category addresses fundamental issues of clarity in prose, such as sentence structure, verb forms, pronoun usage, spelling, and punctuation. Be sure to proofread thoroughly.
- **MLA Style and Formatting.** This category addresses all basic formatting issues, including title, page numbers, proper spacing and margins, in-text citation, and the Works Cited page. Use MLA 8th Edition Style.

Goals

- Make an original, insightful argument that responds to your research problem.
- Incorporate relevant, compelling sources to support your claim.
- Utilize well developed paragraphs and transitions to thoughtfully progress the argument.
- Proofread to execute polished grammar, mechanics, MLA style, and formatting.

Formatting

- Your essay should be approximately 10-12 pages long, typed, double-spaced. Use 1-inch margins and have name, class, assignment title, and date at the top left corner of the first page. *Please note: if you insert images into the body of your text, the page length should also extend accordingly. Include caption citations for any images.*
- In-text citations should be formatted according to MLA style: insert page numbers for any quotations in parentheses after the quote (just the page numbers; no pp. or p.).
- Include a Works Cited page with at least 2 scholarly sources, formatted according to MLA 8th Edition style.
- *Before submitting your assignment, you will meet with me in my office (KBB 215) for a scheduled Research Essay Conference during Weeks 12 and 13. See Note below for Conference details.*
- Submit completed assignment on Blackboard by 11:59pm on the date specified in our class syllabus.

The Research Essay Conference.

In Week 12 or 13, you will meet with me in my office during a scheduled conference time to discuss your first draft of the Research Essay. You'll sign up for this conference the same way you signed up for the Proposal conference, using a Wiki on our class Blackboard page.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Conference times, once scheduled, cannot be made up if missed.
- In order to receive full credit for your conference, you must bring a full draft of your essay printed out to your conference. (Computer drafts will not be sufficient and will receive reduced credit.)
- Any Research Essay submitted without a conference will be penalized 10%.

All conferences will take place in my office (KBB 215). To keep things timely, please arrive 5 minutes early. In order to successfully complete your essay conference:

- ✓ Bring a printed, full draft of your essay to your scheduled conference time.
- ✓ Bring a pen and paper to take notes during our conference.

My scheduled conference is for:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: KBB 215

← Don't forget to sign up on Blackboard!