

## RESEARCH PAPER

For this assignment, you are being asked to compose a 2000-2500 word thesis-driven analytic essay that explores a topic of your choosing (the topic you've already begun to research and explore in your Exploratory Essay and Annotated Bibliography assignment). This paper is like a final exam in the sense that you should aim to demonstrate proficiency in all the skills we have discussed this semester. I will be looking at your ability to choose a viable research topic, engage with it in a meaningful way, close read texts, summarize other scholars' critical arguments, and integrate other viewpoints into your own larger, balanced and thoughtful argument.

Of course, the rules of good academic writing still apply, which means you should have a strong thesis statement that controls the argument and structure of your entire paper. Your paragraphs should be coherent and lend support to your thesis, integrating both your own original thoughts and the thoughts of others. All quoted, paraphrased, or summarized material must be cited properly in MLA or APA format, both within the paper and at the end in the form of a works cited or references list.

To prepare for writing this paper, you will complete several prewriting activities, including a conference with me, a library research session and the exploratory essay and annotated bibliography assignment. Your research paper will go through two mandatory draft processes, but you should feel free to write other drafts as needed. The research paper requires the integration of a minimum of 5 secondary sources in support of your own argument, but you're certainly welcome to incorporate more sources as you see fit.

### Guidelines:

- **Length:** 2000-2500 words. Your paper should also include a separate works cited or references page.
- **Formatting:** Standard stuff here--double-spacing, one-inch margins and 12-point font.
- **Style:** Your final draft should reflect all of the style guidelines of your chosen citation style (MLA or APA).

### Due Dates:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Draft:** 10/28 (750-1000 words)
  - Bring 3 hard copies to class for peer review.
  - Bring in your first 2 pages (or 500 words) for feedback from me.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Draft:** 11/7 (1250-1750 words)
  - Bring 2 hard copies to class for peer review.
  - Bring in 2 more pages (or 500 words) for feedback from me.
- **Final Draft:** 11/14 (2000-2500 words)
  - Upload final draft to Sakai
  - Late drafts (i.e. papers that are not submitted by the start of class on the day they're due) will lose  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a letter grade for each day they are late.