

PROJECT #3: Academic Research Paper

SUBMISSION METHOD:	Upload to submission folder on iCollege
FILE NAME:	LASTNAME_E5.DOC or .DOCX (WORD FILETYPE ONLY)
DUE:	4/30/19 by 11:59pm
EVALUATION:	100 points possible; see attached rubric for details
LENGTH:	1000-1500 words

What: For this assignment, you will be tying together all that you have learned thus far in the semester by writing a 1000-1500 word research paper based on the secondary sources you gathered for the annotated bibliography (and that you explored further in your Source Evaluation Essay). Your goal is to compose an argument that synthesizes these sources in support of a compelling thesis.

Why: As scholars, it's imperative that we learn both how to respond to and build on the work of our peers; that's the goal of the academic research paper. As writers, we are also challenged to learn how to present important, complex, and provocative arguments in a way that's effective and engaging to the intended reader. Thus, this project draws heavily on your analytical and writing skills. Not only will you contribute to a body of knowledge on your topic, you will also inform, persuade, and influence your audience.

How: Having completed a Research Proposal and an annotated bibliography of secondary sources, you are already well prepared to write this paper. The first major step toward synthesizing the information you've collected is to read over what you've highlighted or captured from your secondary sources. Consider all the sources and evidence you've gathered fairly and carefully. Think about what data or quotes are most relevant or interesting [but don't cherry pick], and make note of them. If your notes are handwritten/highlighted, now would be a good time to type this info in a word document (be sure to note the author and page number for later). These notes and quotes are the evidence you will cite to support your argument. THEN...

- **Develop a thesis statement.** Consider your own interest in and existing views on the topic, as well as all you've learned from your secondary sources. Your research paper thesis should reflect what you've found in the secondary research, since these sources will be one of the main sources of support for your argument. The thesis should also demonstrate your own point of view and original contribution to the conversation surrounding your topic. **Don't merely rehash arguments that already exist about your topic or inform the audience on the issue.** Make sure you are saying something *new* and *debatable*. Your research will help you do that.
- **Draft an outline for your paper.** We will be looking at several paper models in class, but since every topic is different, you also want to think about how to present your information logically and rhetorically. In other words, **order your paper in a way that will help your audience to understand and be convinced by your argument.** Keep in mind that the addition of your research may change the structure of your argument.

- **Start drafting!** The sooner you get to this stage of the assignment, the better off you'll be. Include in-text citations of your sources and balance direct quoting and paraphrasing. Remember that citing sources not only helps you support your argument, it also contributes to your ethos. Be sure to introduce all quotations [no dropped quotes!] and to limit yourself to no more than one block quotation. Also, remember to keep it interesting by writing with your intended audience and purpose in mind. Academic research can be dry at times, but you chose this topic because you are passionate about it. Look for ways to blend that passion with your research.
- **Complete your works cited list page.** You may copy and paste the citations from your annotated bibliography (annotations are not necessary). If you've added new sources, remember to create citations for them as well.
- **Leave time to revise.** A research paper is not the type of essay that can be written successfully in a single evening or in a first draft. Take your peers' comments seriously, have something prepared for our scheduled conference, come to my office hours, or make an appointment with the writing studio.

Requirements:

- A well-researched, academic argument that adds a new perspective to the existing conversation about your topic
- A clear thesis statement that advances a specific, substantial, *arguable* point
- **Strong supporting evidence from your secondary research**
- In-text citation of at least **FIVE** different secondary sources
- A careful evaluation of relevant counterpoints
- A coherent organizational structure that enhances the argument and effectively portrays the research
- An identifiable audience
- A clear ethos
- 4-6 Pages, double-spaced pages (NOT including Works Cited Page)
- Works Cited page (MLA 8th edition)
- Meticulous proofreading and proper formatting

NO:

- Dropped quotes (always provide the author's name)
- No more than one block quote
- Changing topics at the last minute. I will only accept papers on proposed topics.

WHEN:

Draft due *in class* for peer-review **TUE 23 APRIL**
FINAL DRAFT DUE **30 APRIL 2019 by 11:59PM**

EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR RESEARCH PAPER

	4	3	2	1
Purpose Topic Thesis Focus	Ideas are insightful, thought-provoking, and focused so that they consistently support a central idea.	Ideas support the topic and central idea with some focus.	Ideas are clichéd or general but demonstrate some support of the topic or a central idea.	Ideas are confusing to the reader and unfocused for the topic at hand. Ambiguous central idea.
Support Details Evidence Examples Logic Arguments Audience Awareness	Support includes details and examples that arouse audience interest. Provides relevant, concrete, specific evidence in support of sound logic. Demonstrates an awareness of audience.	Support is adequate in all places. Details and examples provide concrete, specific evidence in support of sound logic. Demonstrates an uneven awareness of audience.	Support is adequate in some places. Evidence and reasons may lead to a few logical fallacies or unsupported claims. Demonstrates a vague awareness of audience.	Support is insufficient, providing scarce or inappropriate details, evidence, and examples that lead to logical fallacies or unsupported claims. Little evidence of audience awareness.
Organization Structure Coherence Unity Transitions	Organization is coherent, unified, and effective in support of the paper's purpose, and consistently demonstrates effective and appropriate transitions between ideas and paragraphs.	Organization is mostly coherent, unified, and effective in support of the paper's purpose. Usually demonstrates effective and appropriate transitions between ideas or paragraphs.	Organization is generally coherent in support of the essay's purpose but is ineffective at times and may demonstrate abrupt or weak transitions between ideas or paragraphs.	Organization is confusing and fragmented in support of the essay's purpose and demonstrates a lack of structure or coherence that negatively affects readability.
Grammar & Mechanics Grammar Spelling Punctuation Sentence structure Word choice Tone	Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are conventionally appropriate. Style is confident, readable and rhetorically effective in tone, incorporating varied sentence structure and precise word choice.	Few "errors" in grammar, spelling and punctuation. Style is readable and rhetorically effective in tone, incorporating some varied sentence structure.	Some distracting, but not serious, problems in grammar, spelling and punctuation. Style is readable, but inconsistent in tone, sometimes lacking sentence variety or effective word choice.	Includes many distracting "errors" in grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Style is mostly readable but lacks sentence variety.