

English 2 /Research Writing, Section 003

Spring 2009— Instructor: Sarah E. Minegar

Writing Assignments

Summary

Write a one page summary of [Drew's Standards of Academic Integrity](#).

Preliminary Topic Proposal

Take **two** of the topics you have been brainstorming and answer the following questions:

Keep in mind that for this assignment your research paper will need to have an [argumentative thesis](#) and thus your proposed topics will need to be “argumentative” (not necessarily controversial) in nature.

1

Title of Project:

Give your project a working title, which may or may not become the title of your paper.

2

Statement of purpose:

Explain what you hope your research will find or show. State your question or series of questions before you begin your research. After you have conducted significant research you should be able to answer your question(s) in one or two sentences, which may become the thesis of the final paper.

3

Background:

Explain your interest in and experience with this topic. Describe any previous research you have conducted on this or related topics, any classes you have taken on this or related topics, or any reading you have already done in the field. If you have personal experience that has led you to want to do more research, describe that here too.

4

Significance:

Explain why this topic is worth considering, or this question or series of questions is worth answering. Answer the following questions: why should your instructor let you select this topic? what do you hope to learn from it? what will this new knowledge add to the field of knowledge that already exists on this topic? what new perspective will you bring to the topic? what use might your final research paper have for others in this field or in the general public? who might you decide to share your findings with once the project is complete?

5

Description:

Describe the kind of research you will conduct to complete this project (library research, internet research, interviews, observations, ethnographies, etc.)

6

Methodology:

Explain how you will conduct your research in as much detail as possible. If you will consult others (such as a statistician, an ethnographer, or a librarian) explain what role they will serve and how you hope they will enhance your development of an appropriate methodology for this project. Discuss the kinds of sources you hope to consult and the methods you will use to extract and process the information you gather in as much detail as is possible at this stage. (As the project is underway you might find the need to revise your methodology, explore new types of source material, and/or adopt new methods of gathering and processing data. If this happens, revise this section of the proposal.)

7

Problems:

Describe the problems you expect to encounter and how you hope to solve them. For example, texts might be unavailable, necessitating travel to other libraries or use of inter-library loan facilities; people you had hoped to interview might be unavailable or unwilling to participate, necessitating that you select other interviewees or change the focus; internet sites might be down or no longer available, etc. (Try to imagine every possible problem so that you have contingency plans and the project doesn't become derailed.)

Refer to:

http://www.users.drew.edu/sjamieso/research_proposal.html

Research Topic Proposal

For this assignment, you will take the preliminary topic proposal that pertains to your chosen research topic, and develop your ideas further. This will involve expanding your working bibliography.

Bibliography:

Make a list of texts you plan to consult. If you are writing a library-based research paper you should aim to make a list of at least 20 **potential** sources (30 is better)—you may include the sources you used for draft one of your paper (explanatory paper), which you will then narrow down as you conduct the research. Many sources initially seem relevant, but turn out not to be, so it is always better to list all sources that might be of interest. As you eliminate sources, cross them off of this list. Mark sources that are particularly useful, and add new sources as you come across them. This will enable you to make a **Works Cited** list at the end of your project (i.e.: a list of only the works you have summarized, paraphrased, or quoted from in the paper.) *When it comes time, you will only be responsible for annotating 16 of these sources.*

Make sure your working bibliography follows the MLA format (don't just paste in links to websites).

Research Paper

Your paper must have:

- **An argumentative thesis** (meaning someone can reasonably disagree with it. It doesn't have to be "controversial.")
- **Evidence to back it up**
- **10-12 pages** (not including your Works Cited page)
- **A minimum of 10 sources, at least seven of which must not be strictly web-based** (journal articles and such you find via the library databases are *not* strictly web-based)
- **Proper citations using MLA**
- **Proper format** (1 inch margins, double-spaced, 12-pt. Times New Roman, proper heading etc.)
- **A Works Cited page**, also using MLA (this is not the same thing as the annotated bibliography)
- **A title**

THIS RESEARCH PAPER WILL BE COMPLETED IN STAGES.

[Draft 1](#) | [Draft 2](#) | [Draft 3](#)

* A note on sources: A minimum of seven of your sources must be from some source other than the general/public internet. General/public internet sources include, but are not limited to, web pages and internet-only news sites. Books, journals, government reports, and other sources which appear in print somewhere are not general/public internet sources and may be used towards your seven non-internet sources, even if you accessed them through on-line databases. General encyclopedias, Wikipedia, and about.com are not acceptable as sources for this paper.

Research Paper

DRAFT 1 Background Synthesis

The first stage of research writing is completing some initial background research on your topic of interest. This paper will help you get acquainted with your topic, without requiring you to make an argument upfront.

Your task with this paper is to provide your readers with information about the topic you have selected by reporting details you have gathered from three or more (reliable) sources. You will organize this background information by topic rather than by source. The paper should contain a focusing statement, though it will not be argumentative since the goal of a background/explanatory synthesis is to inform rather than to persuade. This paper should be between 3-5 pages, and use 4+ sources.

The basic structure for this assignment:

- A basic introduction to the topic and introduction to sources, clearly written focus statement
- Organization by themes, points, similarities etc., while incorporating appropriate sources- Each paragraph will begin with a topic sentence that identifies what the paragraph will discuss, followed by information from several sources (cited).
- Conclusion reminding readers of the themes, points, similarities etc. that were brought up in your essay.

The Key Features of a Synthesis:

- (1) It accurately reports information from the sources using different phrases and sentences;
- (2) It is organized in such a way that readers can immediately see where the information from the sources overlap;
- (3) It makes sense of the sources and helps the reader understand them in greater depth.

DRAFT 2 Argumentative Research Paper -- Partial Draft

Your half draft should be between 5 and 6 pages. It should include a strong introduction and well formulated argument (thesis) and several well developed supporting paragraphs.

DRAFT 3 Argumentative Research Paper -- Full Draft

Your full draft should be between 10 and 12 pages. Use your peer review sheet as a guideline.

Annotated Bibliography

You can begin working on your annotated bibliography as soon as you begin finding useful sources for your paper. As you begin weeding out unhelpful sources, you will need to begin justifying your remaining sources. This process will help you realize which sources best help you make your argument. And as you begin annotating your sources, you may find you are able to take many of your ideas and arguments directly from your annotated bibliography and use them in your paper.

Each annotated bibliography entry will list:

- 1) your source, cited properly using the [MLA format](#),
- 2) a brief summary of the source, **2 to 4 sentences to summarize the main idea(s) this will require you to have read through (not merely skimmed) some of the source**,
- 3) a brief assessment/ criticism of the source...is it well documented? reliable? current? biased? Does the author have credibility in the field? Etc.– **1 to 2 sentences**,
- 4) and a brief description of how this source has relevance in your research project. * more than “this source pertains to my topic”—really illustrate how the source helps your argument, **1 to 2 sentences to relate the source to your research topic**

Your annotated bibliography should have *at least* 16 entries and should follow the above format. Ten of the sixteen entries must come from resources accessed through Drew or another library – either on-line or in-print – but not available on the general internet. The other five sources may come from the internet, although that is not required. (You may get all 16 of your sources from the library or library’s electronic databases if you choose.) *Note, you may choose to include some of the preliminary sources you included in your research topic proposal as part of your annotated bibliography.

* Check out the [Purdue On-line Writing Lab](#) website for more examples.

Archives Project

This assignment is designed to give you archival research experience as well as practice analyzing primary and or secondary sources.

For your archives project, you will:

1. Use the finding aid in the Methodist Archives to find any document(s) of interest (this document(s) does NOT have to pertain to your research topic);
2. Fill out a request form to see the document(s) (the archivist will give you special instructions);
3. Review the document(s), take notes, and begin to decide how you will answer the questions you have been assigned;
4. Request a photocopy of the document(s) (you will use this during your presentation);
5. Complete the questions you have been assigned and decide how you will present your archival document to the class.

Be prepared to spend one to one and a half hours in the archives. Keep in mind that the archives hours are shorter than library study hours. > Check hours online. Bring a dollar and some change for photocopies.

* You will be responsible for completing this assignment by week 5. You will need to prepare a 5 minute presentation of your archival document, to deliver in front of the class. You are only required to present on one document.

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- **Preliminary Topic Proposal**
- **Topic Proposal**
- **Thesis and Outline**
- **Annotated Bibliography, 16 entries**
- **Draft 1 - Background Synthesis w/ my comments**
- **Draft 2 – Partial Draft, 5 to 6 pages w/ my comments**
- **Draft 3 – Full Draft, 10 to 12 pages w/ my comments**
- **Peer Review drafts and sheets for draft 2 and 3**
- **Example Research Notes or any additional brainstorming/free writing**
- **Revised Research Paper**
- **Reflective Essay** Brief statement (about 1.5-2 pages) explaining what you have learned from English 2, how you've changed as a writer, how you have improved, and also areas where you would still like to improve both in your writing process, and in the final product you produce.

*** See Online Writing Assignments Page for Grading Criteria**

Turning in your portfolio:

Option 1 – The All Electronic Way: Create an email with the subject line “Your Name’s Final Portfolio.” Attach to that email all of the documents (in Word) listed under “contents” above. Anything that is handwritten and not in the computer should be scanned in as a bmp or jpeg and attached as well.

Option 2 – The Mostly Electronic Way: Create an email with the subject line “Your Name’s Final Portfolio.” Attach to that email all of the documents (in Word) listed under “contents” above. Anything that is handwritten and not in the computer should be collected in a big envelope or folder with your name and my name written or printed in large letters somewhere on the outside, and left it in the mail drop outside of my office in Sitterly (209) by 5 pm Tuesday, March 17. You should also include a note in your email telling me that there is a paper supplement to your electronic portfolio outside my office so I know to look for it.

Option 3 – The Old Fashioned Way: As a last resort, print the contents out, collect it in a big envelope or folder with your name and my name written or printed in large letters somewhere on the outside, and leave it in the mail drop outside of my office in Sitterly (209) by 5 pm Tuesday, March 17.