ENG 501 | Fall 2010 | Assignment 4: Writing a research paper

Due: November 9 by 6:30 pm; send as an attachment to an email

Possible points: 100

Note: If you request and receive an extension of more than two business days for this assignment, you forfeit your opportunity to revise the assignment.

For your fourth assignment, you will build upon the research skills and, perhaps, some of the research you have conducted this semester to write a research paper. Your paper should answer a research question that you develop, cite adequate secondary sources, use a theoretical perspective and clear research methods, and present a thoughtful and detailed analysis.

Paper specifications
You should seek to write a paper of 15-20 pages in length (about 5,500 to 8,000 words). Follow the guidelines in the MLA guide for formatting your paper and your works cited.

Student learning outcomes addressed by this assignment

- Develop a successful and effective personal research process
- Advance your ability to understand scholarship and produce scholarly prose appropriate for the area of English studies in which you are interested
- Learn to locate and use tools from the library and reliable online providers to further your research
- Develop a strategy for entering a new scholarly discourse community and participating in relevant discussions
- Learn to use a range of research methods to collect information and provide evidence for your arguments
- Gain a healthy appreciation for and awareness of the vast scholarly landscape surrounding any issue, problem, or text in English studies
- Begin to develop your own voice as a scholar in your specific subfield

Grading criteria

Purpose:
- Paper provides a scholarly discussion and critical analysis of an issue/text/texts in the author’s field of interest
- Paper integrates secondary scholarship that situates the author’s perspective and arguments within the scholarly conversations taking place about the texts or issues in question
- Paper clearly and reflexively outlines the research methods employed
- Paper provides concrete and specific examples to support general statements and integrates these effectively
- Paper demonstrates a depth of thought and analysis about the texts or issues in question, clearly pushing the discussion beyond obvious plot-level or descriptive observations
- The paper’s assertions are arguable and go beyond the basic assertions about the text or issue commonly made in the extant literature

Product:
- Structure of the paper adheres to the guidelines for authors outlined by the MLA
- Citations within the text and in the works cited conform to MLA guidelines
• Use of footnotes or endnotes conform to MLA guidelines
• Paper is well-written, clear, and grammatically correct

Process:
• Paper reflects that the author has completed adequate research to support their thesis and claims
• Paper reflects that the author has selected a research methodology and has employed it effectively
• Paper reflects the author’s awareness of MLA guidelines and how to apply them to the formatting and citation practices within the paper