

## Research Assignment

Rough Draft Due: Monday, 4/19

Final Draft due: Monday, 5/3

Your research assignment is to find a movie based on a true story and to research and tell the actual story – using newspaper and magazine articles, the databases, and books – and, at the end, to evaluate the film on whether the writer and director did their work well.

As with everything we have done this semester, you need to look closely at the details in the stories you are telling. If I am writing my paper on Titanic, for instance, I need to think clearly about the details I need to focus on: how the boat was built and who the builders were; the day Titanic left Belfast and the people who were able to secure tickets on it (where were various people housed? What decided that?); the beginning of the trip and the habits of all the workers. I will, of course, focus on the moment the ship struck the iceberg, and how it eventually sank, and what the various theories were of how something deemed “unsinkable” could actually sink.

Think carefully about how you will bring the reader into the moment: use your introduction well, to give some kind of background, perhaps, or a verbal sort of map, taking the reader into your paper. As always, write a clear, specific thesis: remember, the specifics will help you take control of exactly what you will discuss – instead of everything in that time period. Think about exactly what will go into each paragraph, and how you will focus your thoughts well. (If, for instance, I end up discussing more about the builders of the Titanic, I need to be clear about that in the Thesis, and give some background about who they were and what experience they had before building Titanic. My Topic Sentences might have the names of several people in them or what people knew about the kinds of building material at that time.

We are using MLA documentation all the way through. Think about how you are always giving your reader a chance to go back to the source, whenever you leave a citation (with a name and page number). If everything in one paragraph is from the same place, you can create the citation for the end of that paragraph. If several paragraphs are from the same source, you may note that with only the page number at the ends of those paragraphs, but when you change to another source, be sure to put the author’s name back in.

Only about 10% of the paper should be quoted, so think carefully about what you will explain yourself (and still cite, even though it is in your words) and what you will quote. All the rules we have used for quoting this semester still apply.

This will probably be about 5-7 pages long, plus a Works Cited page. Think carefully about exactly what needs to be in your paper – and what can be left out.

Since Titanic is my example movie, please choose another one to research and write on.

