

Final Research Paper Guidelines

Now that you've completed an Annotated Bib and identified an argument that interests you, begin drafting your 2000-word Final Research Paper.

This paper will **incorporate FIVE peer-reviewed scholarly sources**; only ONE of these texts may be an assigned course reading, and the rest should be acquired from the library databases. Use your Annotated Bib as a guide, but feel free to switch out a source if you no longer find it useful.

The Final Research Paper is worth **30%** of your grade.

Detailed Instructions:

1) In its opening paragraph, this paper should have a **strong critical argument** that goes beyond surface observations.

*Tip 1: Since you will be using several texts, don't name them all in the intro. Use this space to analyze and explain the impact or consequences your argument will have for your readers. Consider how you are joining a broader conversation about your topic. Be careful to avoid generalizations and stereotypes!

2) The subsequent (body) paragraphs should **analyze specific passages** from your sources to demonstrate how you've arrived at your argument and interpretations.

*Tip 2: Analyze don't summarize! This is *not* a book report. Make points throughout the paper that relate to your argument using keywords from your opening paragraph. Make strong connections and transitions from one idea and source to the next.

3) You will need to **incorporate direct quotations** from the **FIVE** peer-reviewed sources you choose to analyze. These quotes **MUST follow MLA or APA citation style**. For information on citations, please visit consult the Purdue OWL.

*Tip 3: Do not allow quotations to overwhelm your paper! For any direct quotation you include, write an ANALYSIS of the passage that is *roughly double* the length of the quotation itself.

4) A **Works Cited or References page** is required. Please consult the Purdue OWL for instructions and formatting.

*Tip 4: The Works Cited page is NOT included in your word minimum.

5) Your paper should be **no less than 2000 words** in length. Use 12 point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins all around. **Include a title and number the pages**. Proofread your paper paying attention to sentence mechanics, consistent syntax, style, and grammar.

Deadline and Submission:

DRAFT 1 of this research paper has a rolling deadline from Tues. Nov. 24th to Tues. Dec. 1st (before 11:59PM). This means you can submit your draft anytime between Nov. 24th and Dec. 1st and you will receive comments.

Drafts are mandatory. Late work won't receive written comments. Post drafts in TWO places:

1) Post your draft as a PDF or MS Word attachment in Assignments:

- Go to "Assignments"; Click on Final Research Paper DRAFT
- Click "Browse My Computer" and choose your file (DO NOT click "Write Submission")
- "Submit"

2) Post your draft as an attachment IN YOUR GROUP:

- Go to "Groups"
- Final Research Paper: Peer Review
- Group Discussion Board
- Final Research Paper: Peer Review
- Create Thread
- Copy and paste your essay in "Message"
- Submit

**This draft will be reviewed by peers within your group. After you receive comments from your peers, you will have time to revise and polish your essay.*

PEER REVIEW is due Fri. Dec. 4th BEFORE 11:59PM. This Peer Review is worth 2% of your final grade.

You are required to offer constructive feedback for ALL members of your peer review group:

- Go to "Groups," "Final Research Paper: Peer Review," "Group Discussion Board"
- Read the papers posted by ALL members in your group
- Post your comments by replying to your classmates' thread

To earn credit, your comments MUST answer the following questions for each paper you read:

- 1) As a reader, what do you see as the argument and keywords of this paper?
- 2) How can the argument be strengthened?
- 3) Is the argument strong, original, and critical, and does it appear in the opening paragraph?
- 4) How is the argument continued or sustained throughout the paragraphs that follow and where does the paper need to be more focused?
- 5) Does this paper use keywords to help transition between paragraphs?
- 6) Where does the paper explain the keywords that are introduced in the opening paragraph and where do you suggest the author include more explanation?
- 7) Where does this paper incorporate analyses of direct quotations using MLA/APA style?
- 8) Where does this paper need more attention on mechanics, proofreading, consistent syntax, and grammar?

9) Does this paper follow the style requirements and include a correct Works Cited/References page?

The REVISION (2000 words) has a rolling deadline from Fri. Dec. 11th to Tues. Dec. 15th BEFORE 11:59. *Tues. Dec. 15th is the **very last day you can submit this paper unless you face extenuating circumstances.* The Final Research Paper is worth **30%** of your grade.**

Post your revised essay AS AN ATTACHMENT in Assignments.

- Click on Final Research Paper REVISION
- Click “Browse My Computer” and choose your file (do NOT click “write submission”)
- “Submit”