

LCS 386 Research Paper Project

Directions: You will be writing one research paper, the purpose of which is to allow you to learn more about a topic related to African Heritage in the Americas and the Caribbean. Writing is not only an essential means of communication, but a superb learning tool as well, allowing you to develop your thoughts logically and really come to grips with what you do and do not understand. In pairs (two people), you will research and write an 8-10- page long paper.

Your paper should be well researched, meaning that you find reputable and credible sources that will give you insight into the topic. You must use at least **5** credible sources. Credible sources are not sources you find from googling your topic and selecting the first 5 matches. Instead, it is about utilizing academic research methods, such as library databases, books, and scholarly journals and articles. **Do not** use articles published in newspapers or magazines such as “New York Times,” “The Washington Post,” and “Newsweek”, for example.

A successful research paper will:

1. Give thorough overview and background for the topic, including historical, cultural, and social aspects of the selected topic
2. Provide specific examples of the selected topic and how it reflects African heritage in the Americas and Caribbean
3. Will make an argument regarding the role of blackness and/or African heritage in the topic as well as its importance for study
4. Use sources to support the information presented through quotes, paraphrases, or summaries of the articles in order to show that the information is correct and accurate

Some possible topics include:

- The image of women of African descent in Latin American, Hollywood or Caribbean advertisement
- The image of Afro-Latin Americans in Latin American Cinema.
- The image of Jamaicans, Dominicans, or Haitians in Hollywood movies
- Reggae as an instrument of resistance
- Black Lives Matter, the movement.
- Colorism in the US, Latin America and/or Caribbean
- Rap/Hip-hop as a form of resistance
- Gender and African religious practices in Latin America and the Caribbean Afro-Mexicans and other Mexicans: nation, nationality, region, and regional identity

I am also open to other topics not listed above; however, you must notify me by **November 15** if your topic is not listed above so that I can approve it. You may do this via email.

The final research project is due at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 6. You will submit it on Blackboard.