

English 101 Research Project: Spring 2018

INSTRUCTIONS:

Write an analytical research essay on a proposed, original subject.

Length: 8 pages, minimum.

Format: MLA, must include works cited page and in-text citations. "Notes" page is optional.

Citations: All ideas, phrases, and sentences not your own must be cited clearly. All paraphrased work must not sound like the original text and must still be cited. A good general guideline is that no more than 20% of your essay should be from quoted sources. The majority of your essay should be your own words/style/voice.

Optional but recommended: 2-4 photographs, charts, graphs that further explain your text. Visuals must be labeled appropriately and included on your works cited page.

References: 8 minimum (periodicals, books, scholarly websites, government databases, documentary films, audio reports, historical journals/diaries, etc.)

DEFINITION:

What is an analytical research essay? According to Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL), "The analytical research paper often begins with the student asking a question (a.k.a. a research question) on which he has taken no stance. Such a paper is often an exercise in exploration and evaluation." Furthermore, OWL states:

Though his topic may be debatable and controversial, it is not the student's intent to persuade the audience that his ideas are right while those of others are wrong. Instead, his goal is to offer a critical interpretation of primary and secondary sources throughout the paper--sources that should, ultimately, buttress his particular analysis of the topic.

Sample Research Question (Your questions must be approved in advance):

Begin with a well-focused question that addresses your specific interests and takes an original angle on the subject matter. Aim for an "edgy" approach. Don't simply repeat the same predictable ideas.

How are schools today (K-12) addressing the topic of race/racism? What, in your opinion, are some of the most effective techniques/methods/lessons?

Examine the experience of undocumented immigrants and the reasons why they decide to come to the United States illegally. Is life in America worth the price that most undocumented immigrants must pay?

The term "white privilege" is used quite frequently these days, but what does this phrase mean, where does it come from, and why is it used in place of words like discrimination, racism, etc.? Find several examples of how the term is being used and specific situations where it might apply.

Most people would agree that children are easily influenced by what they see and hear. Are toy manufacturers doing enough to create gender equality in their products?

(Rubric handed out separately)