

# RESEARCHED ESSAY ENGLISH 311

**PROPOSAL DUE THURSDAY OCTOBER 26**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE TUESDAY NOVEMBER 7**

**ESSAY DRAFT DUE NOVEMBER 14 (PEER REVIEW)**

**ESSAY DUE NOVEMBER 16**

## **Outcomes:**

- Analyze, evaluate, document and draw inferences from academic sources
- Use argumentative strategies to engage your audience
- Identify, select and analyze research methods, research questions, and evidence for a strong rhetorical situation
- Integrate others' ideas with your own
- Use grammatical, stylistic, and mechanical formats and conventions for an effective essay
- Produce a well-reasoned, warranted research essay

## **Assignment:**

### **1. PROPOSAL**

Come to class prepared to share aloud:

- What research question are you focusing on for this essay
- What you will gain from researching this topic
- What do you already know about the topic? In what areas will you focus your research? What are the main questions you hope to answer with your research and final paper?

### **2. RESEARCHED ESSAY, 6 PAGES TEXT, DOUBLE-SPACED**

You will be responsible for the principles of academic writing as polished in your English 185 course and via the writing you've done this semester. Follow MLA scrupulously!

Your researched essay may build upon what you discovered in the close reading or data mining projects, that is, something that fascinated or perplexed you that you choose to explore in more detail. But the researched essay does not need to spring from previous work.

Consider the literature and themes that we are discussing in English 311, and begin with a research question: for example, what does *Hamlet* suggest about the nature of revenge? About the fraught nature of parents, children, siblings? How does Shakespeare use imagery about the difficulty of conveying truth in language (must indirection find direction out)? How is identity challenged in *Twelfth Night* or *King Lear*? What is the nature of Henry V's reign? Trace a particular image or concept through any of the plays and ask how it functions to convey an important theme (or perhaps make it more ambiguous?). Fall in love with the idea!

Begin with a research question, gather feedback from your peers' perspectives on it, propose a thesis, then begin researching. You must choose five scholarly sources to integrate into an organized and convincing essay. Find your sources via the Oxford library.

Start with a strong introduction (see class notes), and make sure your paragraphs each fully develop a main point or claim.

- Remember the **“So What?”** It's up to you to convince your audience that this matters.
- Vary your sources. **Thoroughly integrate your sources** as evidence to support your assertions. Beware of writing a single page that only cites one source.
- **Remember your audience.** Assume they have read *Hamlet* or *Black Swan Green*. What do your readers need to know about your topic? What do they need to know to understand what you are trying to say? How can you best convince them?
- **Include Counterevidence.**
- **In-text citations are crucial:** without them, I will not grade the paper.

#### Specifics:

- Six pages of text, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, one-inch margins
- Followed by a Works Cited page, where you list the sources you cited in the paper
- 5 sources required: 3 peer-reviewed journal articles / 2 sources: book chapters
- The essay, parenthetical citations, and Works Cited page must adhere to MLA style.
- Bring a printed draft of at least 5 pages to class on Nov. 14 for peer review.
- Essays are due (printed and stapled) at the beginning of class on Nov. 16

Consider the following:

- Am I integrating sources smoothly into the text? Do I limit quotations from scholarly sources?
- Am I citing everything that is from a source?
- Are all the sources I cite in the Works Cited?
- Am I backing claims with evidence? (Or logical fallacies?)
- Are my claims warranted?
- Have I included counter evidence?
- Is my prose strong (sentence variety, strong verbs, limited prepositional phrases)?