

# RESEARCHED ESSAY ENGLISH 185

PROPOSAL DUE THURSDAY, MARCH 8

BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE TUESDAY MARCH 27

ESSAY DRAFT DUE APRIL 3 (PEER REVIEW)

ESSAY DUE APRIL 5

## Outcomes:

- Analyze, evaluate, document and draw inferences from academic sources
- Use argumentative strategies to engage and convince 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 with the following printed:

- What research question are you focusing on for this essay?
- What do you think 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. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 25 sources, alphabetized, formatted in *scrupulous* MLA
- no annotations necessary, but note the five most promising sources in bold type
- printed and stapled

### 3. RESEARCHED ESSAY, 6 PAGES TEXT, DOUBLE-SPACED

You will be responsible for the principles in *They Say, I Say*, according to the readings assigned throughout the semester.

Your researched essay may build upon what you discovered in the close reading or even the unwritten essay 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 185, 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 do Shakespeare or Mitchell use imagery about the difficulty of conveying truth in language? What does the narrator reveal about the process of poetry or prose? Trace a particular image or concept through *Black Swan Green* (the watch/the town itself/poetry/stammering) 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. Review *They Say, I Say* text on choosing and integrating sources into your paper.

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 April 3

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?
- Do I include a naysayer?
- Is my prose strong (sentence variety, strong verbs, limited prepositional phrases)?
- Do I demonstrate why the essay matters?