

**ENG 2883 American Literature since 1865**  
**Instructions for Research Paper**

Project and Purpose	<p>Researched, argumentative paper on an assigned topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop a full-length analysis of a work of literature</li> <li>• to develop a clear and arguable thesis that addresses a significant aspect of the literature</li> <li>• to effectively and accurately incorporate quotations from both primary and appropriate secondary sources</li> <li>• to format and document accurately following MLA guidelines</li> </ul>
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1500-2000 word Research Paper.</li> <li>• Must be on a work, or works, covered in our course, from our Course Outline and provide a meaningful, thoughtful analysis of the literature. Must NOT address a topic used in either of the Analytic Essay assignments.</li> <li>• Must be written as a formal essay with an introduction; substantial, developed body; and conclusion</li> <li>• Introduction must have a controlling, argumentative thesis statement</li> <li>• Paper must be supported with primary textual support and 5-7 authoritative, secondary sources.</li> <li>• Paper must be formatted according to MLA guidelines. Must have in-text citations for primary and secondary sources which all must conform to MLA guidelines.</li> <li>• Paper must include a Works Cited page in MLA format. All sources listed on the Works Cited page must be either quoted or paraphrased in the paper with appropriate in-text citation. NOTE: The primary text[s] used in the paper are required to be listed on the Works Cited page; however, primary works are NOT part of the 5-7 secondary source requirement for the assignment. Also, the Works Cited page does not count in the length requirement of 1500-2000 words.</li> <li>• Paper must be fully developed and supported and must be well-written with virtually no errors.</li> <li>• Paper must be submitted in proper format by due date and time.</li> </ul>
Topic and Content	<p>Choose a work or works listed on our Course Outline to be the basis of your research paper. Your paper is an analysis of some aspect of your topic. [NOTE: The topic cannot be one addressed in either of the Analytic Essay assignments]</p> <p>Assume your reader has already read the texts you are addressing. Your argument will address some aspect of the literature. You can analyze character development. You could trace the significance of a reoccurring symbol. You could analyze the setting and how it contributes to the theme of the work. You could explicate an assigned poem. If you explicate a poem, be sure to discuss the form of the poem [rhyme and meter and other poetic devices], its major imagery, metaphor, and theme.</p> <p><b>Do not write a biography of the author. Do not write a plot summary of the literature you are analyzing.</b></p>

	<p>Paper must be well-developed in support of a controlling thesis. Paper must be well-organized.</p> <p>Sources that are listed on the Works Cited page must be quoted and/or paraphrased in the paper. Quotes and paraphrases must be integrated into the student's own writing. They should not replace the student's writing. In a paper of this size, only 1 extended quote of 3-4 typed lines is appropriate [this should be indented 5 spaces from the margin]. All quotes and/or paraphrases must be cited with an in-text citation in MLA style.</p>
Research	<p>The paper will be supported by 5-7 authoritative, secondary sources. Sources must come from professional journal articles or chapters of scholarly books. <b>Please do not use internet sites for your sources</b>—you may use data bases that are on the web, but they must be academic. For example, you will want to search the MLA International Bibliography to find appropriate sources for your topic. You can do this through the link to the UCO library on the UCO homepage.</p> <p>The paper will be completely formatted and documented in compliance with MLA guidelines.</p> <p>Student may use sources that s/he annotated for the Annotated Bibliography. [NOTE: Do not use any source evaluated as substandard by instructor]</p>
Submission	<p>Please submit assignment to the appropriate folder in "Dropbox" located under Assessments in our D2L site. Paper must be submitted by the due date and time [see Course Outline]. Late submission will result in a 10 point penalty.</p> <p>You must save file as either a Word document, .docx, or a .pdf file. <b>Do not submit .rtf or other formats—they cannot be opened to be graded.</b></p> <p><b>Do not submit file to professor's email account.</b></p> <p><b>Do not copy and paste the paper into the Comment section in Dropbox.</b></p>
Evaluation	<p><b>All papers will be automatically submitted to Turnitin.com for an originality check [see Plagiarism Policy in our course Syllabus].</b></p> <p>Papers will be evaluated according to a rubric that represents the requirements of the assignment and includes readability and grammar/mechanics of the student's writing:</p> <p><b>Criteria for this assignment will include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meets requirements:</b> sufficient length of 1500-2000 words, addresses assigned topic, provides a strong arguable controlling thesis statement, provides meaningful and thoughtful analysis of the literature, provides fully developed and well-supported argument, is well-written with virtually no errors, is submitted in proper format by due date and time. Must be fully documented with both in-text citations and accurate Works Cited page following MLA guidelines. <b>10% of score</b></li> <li>• <b>Comprehensive research</b> of topic with authoritative, academic sources. All sources must be from chapters of scholarly books and academic journal articles. <b>20% of score</b></li> <li>• <b>Development:</b> Well-organized and well-developed paper with argumentative thesis statement and</li> </ul>

	<p>sufficient support from both primary and secondary sources, worth <b>40% of the score</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Readability and style:</b> Paper is well-written with sophisticated sentence structure and paragraph development, worth <b>10% of the score</b></li> <li>• <b>Grammar and Mechanics:</b> Paper is free of major grammar errors and free of mechanical errors, worth <b>10% of the score</b></li> <li>• <b>Documentation:</b> Paper follows MLA guidelines for formatting and documentation. All quotations and paraphrases are cited in the text of the paper and a complete Works Cited page is provided, worth <b>10% of the score.</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note: no credit is given for the research paper if the student does not analyze a work or works that are assigned text[s] from our Course Outline.</b></li> <li>• <b>Note: no credit is given for the research paper if the student chooses a topic used in either of the Analytic Essay assignments.</b></li> <li>• <b>Note: Readability, Grammar, and Documentation criteria will not receive full credit if paper is underdeveloped. For example, if paper is less than 1500 words, full credit will not be given for these criteria</b></li> </ul>
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