Paper 1: Guidelines

This **three to four page paper** asks you to close read and analyze **TWO** of the assigned texts we’ve examined so far. Choose **one** essay question and follow the instructions below.

Essay Questions:

*Option One:*

*Option Two:*

**\*Do not rewrite the question at the top of your paper. You must choose a question and create a strong, critical argument of your own.**

Detailed Instructions:

1) In the opening paragraph, this paper should have a **strong, critical argument** that goes beyond surface observations. Introduce the texts the paper will analyze.

\*Tip 1: Identify the texts you are analyzing and explain the impact or consequences your argument will have for your readers. Be careful to avoid generalizations and stereotypes!

2) The subsequent (body) paragraphs should **analyze specific passages** from your texts to demonstrate how you’ve arrived at your argument and interpretations.

\*Tip 2: Analyze don’t summarize! This is *not* a book report. Make points throughout the paper that relate to your argument using keywords from your opening paragraph.

3) You will need to **incorporate direct quotations** from the texts you analyze. These quotes MUST **follow MLA or APA citation style**. For information on citations, please visit the Purdue OWL (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>).

\*Tip 3: Do not allow quotations to overwhelm your paper! For any direct quotation you include, make sure to write an ANALYSIS of the passage that is *roughly double* the length of the quotation itself.

4) A **Works Cited or References page** is required. Please consult the Purdue OWL for instructions on formatting. \*The citations page is NOT included in your word minimum.

5) Your paper should be **three to four pages** in length. Use 12 point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins all around. Be sure to **include a title and page numbers**. Proofread your paper paying attention to sentence mechanics, consistent syntax, style, and grammar.

Deadline and Submission:

**DRAFT 1 of this paper is due on [date]**

Post your draft as an MS Word attachment in Assignments:

* Go to “Assignments”; Click on Paper #1 DRAFT
* Click “Browse My Computer” and choose your file (DO NOT click “Write Submission”)
* “Submit”

*\*This draft will be reviewed by peers within your group. After you receive comments from your peers, you will have time to revise and polish your essay. LATE DRAFTS DON’T RECEIVE COMMENTS.*

**PEER REVIEW is on [date]**

You are required to offer constructive feedback for ALL members of your peer review group.

**PAPER #1 (revised and polished) is due on [date].** This deadline is non-negotiable. Paper 1 is worth **10%** of your final grade.

Post your revised paper AS AN ATTACHMENT in Assignments.

* Click on Paper #1 REVISION
* Click “Browse My Computer” and choose your file (do NOT click “write submission”)
* “Submit”

Paper 2: Guidelines

This **four to five page paper** requires you to do the following:

1. Choose one of the questions below;
2. Develop an original, strong, and critical argument;
3. Write a paper using ONE course text and TWO outside (secondary), academic, sources. \*These outside sources MUST come from the York College library’s academic databases; they should be peer-reviewed, scholarly articles. Newspapers, popular magazines, and encyclopedia entries will NOT suffice.

Questions:

(Prompt students to draw critical connections and synthesize sources.)

Detailed Instructions:

1) In the opening paragraph, this paper should have a **strong, critical argument** that goes beyond surface observations. Introduce the course text the paper will analyze.

\*Tip 1: Identify the course text you are analyzing and explain the impact or consequences your argument will have for your readers. Be careful to avoid generalizations and stereotypes!

2) The subsequent (body) paragraphs should **analyze specific passages** from your chosen course text AND two outside sources to demonstrate how you’ve arrived at your argument and interpretations.

\*Tip 2: Analyze don’t summarize! This is *not* a book report. Make points throughout the paper that relate to your argument using keywords from your opening paragraph.

3) You will need to **incorporate well-chosen direct quotations** from the course text and two sources you analyze. These quotes MUST **follow MLA or APA citation style**. For information on citations, please visit the Purdue OWL (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/).

\*Tip 3: Do not allow quotations to overwhelm your paper! For any direct quotation you include, make sure to write an ANALYSIS of the passage that is *roughly double* the length of the quotation itself.

4) A **Works Cited or References page** is required. Please consult the Purdue OWL for instructions on formatting. \*The citations page is NOT included in your word minimum.

5) Your paper should be **four to five pages** in length. Use 12 point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins all around. Be sure to **include a title and page numbers**. Proofread your paper paying attention to sentence mechanics, consistent syntax, style, and grammar.

Deadline and Submission:

**DRAFT 1 of this paper is due on [date]**

The draft is mandatory and late work doesn’t receive written comments.

**PEER REVIEW is on [date]**

You are required to offer constructive feedback for ALL members of your peer review group.

**PAPER #2 (revised and polished) is due on [date].** This deadline is non-negotiable. Paper #2 is worth **15%** of your final grade.

Post your revised essay AS AN ATTACHMENT in Assignments.

Annotated Bibliography and Research Proposal

**Research Question:**

To begin, identify a question you have that relates to our course theme. You will use this question to guide your library research. Be sure this question is one that captures your interest and can be explored in detail. Circle keywords from your question that can be used to search library databases for sources.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

List and describe **EIGHT peer-reviewed**, scholarly articles that you plan to use for your research project. *(We will discuss what counts as a “scholarly” source in class as well as our library information session.)* You will need to find these sources through the library databases. Annotate **five** articles by following these guidelines:

1) Your annotated bibliography should be listed in alphabetical order (of the author’s last name), and each entry should begin with a complete citation using MLA/APA guidelines. **For all five entries, you’ll need to write an annotation.**

2) The annotation appears directly under the citation and it consists of **two paragraphs (200-word minimum)** containing:

a) A brief **summary** of what this source is about written entirely in YOUR OWN words;

b) A **description** of why you think this source could be useful to your research paper. You should also comment on how this source is positioned in the larger field or discipline you are researching. Please ensure that your citations and annotations are **double-spaced** so I can make comments on your work (see example on page two).

**Here is an example of an annotated bibliography entry in MLA style (from the Purdue OWL):**

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing*

*and Life*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995. Print.

Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. Taking a humorous approach to the realities of being a writer, the chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal and offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic. In the process, Lamott includes writing exercises designed to be both productive and fun.

Lamott offers sane advice for those struggling with the anxieties of writing, but her main project seems to be offering the reader a reality check regarding writing, publishing, and struggling with one's own imperfect humanity in the process. Rather than a practical handbook to producing and/or publishing, this text is indispensable because of its honest perspective, its down-to-earth humor, and its encouraging approach. Chapters in this text could easily be included in the curriculum for a writing class. Several of the chapters in Part 1 address the writing process and would serve to generate discussion on students' own drafting and revising processes. Some of the writing exercises would also be appropriate for generating classroom writing exercises. Students should find Lamott's style both engaging and enjoyable.

**RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

There are many different conventions for writing a research proposal, and each discipline may ask for a different kind of document and format. To prepare for our research paper, I am asking you to **write a 300-400 word research proposal** (double-spaced with one-inch margins in 12 point Times New Roman font) including the following information **(please use these subheadings as you write)**:

**Introduction:**

Write a **one-paragraph** introduction explaining what you plan to research, and discuss why you’ve chosen this particular topic. Be sure to offer context and background information about your topic. \*Include a potential thesis AND explain how this subject relates to the course theme.

**Research Questions:**

Identify **ONE primary research question** you will use to guide your library research. Next, list **THREE sub-questions**: Questions that are related to or fall under the scope of your primary question.

**Objectives:**

In **one paragraph**, explain what you expect to discover by doing your research. Where do you anticipate this research project will lead? What are your goals for choosing this topic? What do you hope to learn and plan to share with your readers?

**Methodology:**

Use **one paragraph** to explain how you are conducting your research: Which databases are you using? What keyword combinations are useful to finding library sources for your project? What kinds of sources are you gathering, and how will you use them in your final paper draft?

Deadline and Submission:

**Your Annotated Bib and Research Proposal assignment is due on [date]**

**\*This assignment is worth 15% of your final grade.**

There is no peer review or draft for this assignment, but if you have questions along the way, please contact me (or a librarian or classmate) for help.

Final Research Paper Guidelines

Begin drafting your **8 to 10 page Final Research Paper**.

This paper will **incorporate EIGHT peer-reviewed scholarly sources**; only ONE of these texts may be an assigned course reading, and the rest should be acquired from the library databases. Use your Annotated Bib as a guide, but feel free to switch out a source if you no longer find it useful.

The Final Research Paper is worth **40%** of your grade.

Detailed Instructions:

1) In its opening paragraph, this paper should have a **strong critical argument** that goes beyond surface observations.

\*Tip 1: Since you will be using several texts, don’t name them all in the intro. Use this space to analyze and explain the impact or consequences your argument will have for your readers. Consider how you are joining a broader conversation about your topic. Be careful to avoid generalizations and stereotypes!

2) The subsequent (body) paragraphs should **analyze specific passages** from your sources to demonstrate how you’ve arrived at your argument and interpretations.

\*Tip 2: Analyze don’t summarize! This is *not* a book report. Make points throughout the paper that relate to your argument using keywords from your opening paragraph. Make strong connections and transitions from one idea and source to the next.

3) You will need to **incorporate direct quotations** from the peer-reviewed sources you choose to analyze. These quotes MUST **follow MLA or APA citation style**. For information on citations, please visit consult the *Bedford Handbook*.

\*Tip 3: Do not allow quotations to overwhelm your paper! For any direct quotation you include, write an ANALYSIS of the passage that is *roughly double* the length of the quotation itself.

4) A **Works Cited or References page** is required. Please consult the Purdue OWL or *Bedford Handbook* for instructions and formatting.

5) Your paper should be **8 to 10 pages** in length. Use 12 point Times New Roman font and one-inch margins all around. **Include a title and number the pages**. Proofread your paper paying attention to sentence mechanics, consistent syntax, style, and grammar.

Deadline and Submission:

**DRAFT 1 of this research paper is due on [date]**

Drafts are mandatory. Late work won’t receive written comments. Post drafts in TWO places:

**PEER REVIEW is on [date]**

You are required to offer constructive feedback for ALL members of your peer review group.

**The REVISION is due on [date].** This deadline is non-negotiable. The Final Research Paper is worth **40%** of your grade.

Post your revised essay AS AN ATTACHMENT in Assignments.