



## ENG 1101 Research Project | Case Study

Case studies are a research method that typically examine a particular phenomenon or “case” through observation and analysis within its real-life context. A case study uses description and analysis to explore the phenomenon under question. While the case under study is typically a phenomenon of interest to an audience of experts, for this project, you will study a person, group, event, decision, policy, institution, period of time, or other system that you are interested in knowing more about. Choose something that you are willing to learn about, and invest your time in.

As part of your project, you will draw your research from multiple, credible sources, including expert and non-expert, and construct synthesis of the underlying principles you are able to reason from the claims and evidence you use to construct your case study. You will provide a written record of your observations (i.e., research notes and argument construction). With your notes and any materials you have collected, you will produce the “deliverables” for the project that are listed below. For each deliverable, you will receive a separate project sheet that provides more detail about what is expected and how it will be graded as part of the project.

### Deliverables

- 1) A case study essay in MLA format on a topic that you have developed through the evolution of your own thinking about a given subject. With the case study, you will incorporate your own research into the ideas of five to six credible, expert sources as well as five to six additional credible, non-expert sources for background and context (for a total of 10 to 12 sources).
- 2) Your collected notes and drafts for the project, digitized and collated in a way that demonstrates the progression and complexity of your thinking.
- 3) An annotated bibliography with at least five credible, expert sources.
- 4) A 250-word reflective response to the process of researching and writing this essay.

## Basic Directions

- a. Begin your exploration of a research topic through guided class activities and assignments. You are expected to keep a research record of the materials you encounter, what you have learned, and decisions you make about your project through reflective writing.
- b. Conduct your research on your topic and document these through a short series of assignments and class activities culminating in an annotated bibliography.
- c. Draft a 1,250+ word essay in MLA format (approx. five-to-six pages double spaced) that integrates the following analytical dimensions:
  - i. Introduces, describes, and situates the subject of your topic and yourself as someone who is interested in it. How will you frame this experience? What is the main idea? Why does it matter?
  - ii. Presents a “thickly” described analysis of the topic across several dimensions pulled from multiple expert sources in your research.
  - iii. Synthesizes a new (to you) understanding of your topic by making claims with supporting evidence from multiple research sources.
  - iv. Presents the essay in general manuscript format (samples will be provided) with MLA citation used.

## Schedule

Here are the due dates for the project assignments:

October 2<sup>nd</sup> (T) – One page precis of chosen topic.

October 9<sup>th</sup> (T) – Pre-thesis case study write-up due.

October 16<sup>th</sup> (T) – Initial case study drafts for peer review.

November 6<sup>th</sup> (T) – Library instructional guide (meet outside of library on 4<sup>th</sup> floor).

November 13<sup>th</sup> (T) – Annotated bibliography due.

November 20<sup>th</sup> (T) – Revised case study drafts for comments and peer review due.

December 4<sup>th</sup> (T) – Completed project with case study, notes, annotated bibliography, and reflection due.