

Dr. Lavelle Porter

ENG 1101 – RESEARCH PAPER SCHEDULE AND GUIDELINES

This semester you will be writing a research paper of 5-7 typed pages (not including the cover sheet and bibliography). This paper is to follow the MLA guidelines for research papers. Those guidelines will be covered extensively in class, and are also available in your required text *Rules of Thumb: A Guide for Writers*.

Grades on the research paper will be based on:

- The strength and clarity of your thesis
- The essay's organization and coherence
- Use of details and specifics to support your main idea
- Proper use of correct MLA format (page numbering, in text citation, etc.)
- The quality of your writing, including organization, grammar, spelling, and style

Book Report

All semester we have been reading essays on the history, politics and culture of New York City from your reader *The Place Where We Dwell*. The research paper that you will complete for this course will be more of an extended book report than a traditional "research paper." Your task is to choose one book related to the course topic and explore that book in detail including its content, publication history and biographical information about the author.

You can choose one of the books listed in the bibliography of your reader on pages 383-387, or you can choose another text from elsewhere. (It should be at least 150 pages long.) The book can be fiction or non-fiction.

The best way to come up with a good research topic is to READ about the subject. Brainstorming will only take you so far. Eventually you will need to dig and read some work in order to find your way. Think of writing the research paper as a chance to teach your readers about what you have learned while doing your research.

Formatting

We will be going over research paper format in detail. There are examples of MLA format in *Rules of Thumb: A Guide for Writers*, as well as on the Purdue OWL website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/>

Content

Your report needs to include the following:

1) *A summary/analysis of the text, from beginning to end.* – Explain to the reader what is in the book and how that information is organized (by sections, chapters, etc), and include information about the publication history of the text (when was it published, or reprinted, and by what publisher).

2) *Information about the author.* This is where you will need to consult other resources to find information about the writer. Some of the books may have a scholarly introduction that includes some biographical information. Otherwise you will need to consult other sources and properly cite where you find information from credible sources.

3) *Your own interpretation of the text.* This report should not be a simple summary of the book. You also need to include your own perspective as a scholar. You can write about why you chose the book and what you learned from reading the book and doing the research.

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT AND DUE DATES

Prospectus – **November 18**

The prospectus is a typed one to two page summary of the topic you have chosen, the progress of your research on the topic, and the sources you intend to use to complete the paper. The prospectus should “convince” the professor that this is an important and worthwhile project.

At the bottom of the prospectus you should have a proper MLA citation of the book you have chosen (including publisher information), and citations of other sources you have consulted on your research topic. *You must turn in a prospectus and have it approved by me in order to receive credit for your final research project.*

Presentations – **December 2, 4, 9, 11**

Each student will give a 8-10 minute presentation on their book. Visual aids are allowed if you have them (but should not take up all of your presentation time). The final paper may still be a work in progress at this stage, but you will be sharing with the class what you have learned about your project thus far. Using a written script is encouraged. However, do keep in mind that this is an oral presentation and not just a reading of your paper. You will be evaluated on the preparation and delivery of your presentation. Attendance on all presentation dates is required, and the full attention of all classmates is expected.

Final Draft – **December 18**

Revise, edit and proofread your project so that it becomes a complete and polished final draft with all the necessary components, including a cover page and bibliography.

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Final Paper Evaluation Sheet

Student: _____

Form (20 points)

Appearance: _____
Citations: _____
Quotations: _____
Works Cited: _____

COMMENTS:

Content (20 points)

Thesis Statement: _____
Development of Thesis: _____
Use of Examples: _____
Variety of Sources: _____
Strong Conclusion: _____

Structure (20 points)

Organization of Topic: _____

Paragraphing: _____

Presentation of Quotes: _____

Fluidity of Argument: _____

Appropriate Length: _____

Grammar and Mechanics (20 points)

Sentence Structure: _____

Punctuation/Capitalization: _____

Voice and Word Choice: _____

Editing and Proofreading: _____

Presentation (20 points)

Presentation: _____

(See presentation sheet for more details)

TOTAL POINTS _____

FINAL GRADE _____

ORAL PRESENTATION EVALUATIONS

STUDENT:

ORGANIZATION:

Was the material presented in a well-prepared and organized manner? Was the presentation organized with a clear introduction, middle and conclusion?

CONTENT:

Did the presenter provide relevant and interesting material about the subject, and display a thorough grasp of the subject matter?

DELIVERY:

Did the presenter speak loudly and clearly and make eye contact with the audience? Did the presenter read from the paper the whole time or address the audience directly?

DISCUSSION:

Were questions answered accurately, clearly and effectively?

VISUAL AIDS:

Extra points for effective incorporation of visual aids into the presentation.

FINAL GRADE:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: