ENG1121, D492

Research paper

Due: May 9 (M)

Response papers 6 and 7 primed us to think through potential sources and the desired scope of hypothetical research projects. You are now being charged with completing your own research paper.

Each of you will choose your own research topic for this 6-8 page paper. Your topic and sources must be scholarly in nature. You will need to synthesize some combination of personal essays, literary fiction, and/or periodical publications, and will need to cite a minimum of six sources, including one piece that we have read and discussed this semester. One key component of this assignment is to have you link something from the past with some reality of our present.

For instance, perhaps you may want to explore the elements of the conspiracy theory Alan Glenn describes in his “’Paul is Dead!’ (Said Fred)” piece (specifically those outlined on page 501) by analyzing the psychology behind conspiracy theories and discussing how the internet can catapult and disseminate such theories. Or, perhaps you would like to apply Charles Horton Cooley’s theory of realness to the practice of having both an instagram and a finstagram account.

Preliminary topics must be submitted (either in class or via OpenLab) and approved by me before you may begin writing; this is a safeguard to ensure that you are on the right track to fulfill the assignment successfully.