

Guidelines for the Research Paper Draft

DUE: Wednesday, November 28 (at the **beginning** of class!)

- The research paper draft is worth 10% of your total course grade. Papers will be graded using the chart included below.
- Research papers must be 5-8 pages long, not including Works Cited (which are required) or illustrations (which are optional).
- In your paper you must use a *minimum* of 5 different sources, including:
 - at least 2 news sources
 - at least 2 scholarly sources
 - at least 1 internet source
- In your paper you will:
 - Write an introduction in which you present your research topic and question
 - Summarize and synthesize the sources you consulted for information on your topic
 - Analyze your sources in light of your research question
 - Present your conclusions, findings, or recommendations

Remember: inquiry + research = knowledge! (also see Badke's model for research on p. 26)

- Paper drafts must be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font. Please use page numbers.
- Your paper must have a title page that includes the title of your paper, your name, our course number (LIB 1201) and the date.
- You do **not** need an abstract or running head for your paper.
- Please PRINT your paper out and bring it to class with you or email it to me as an attachment before 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 28
- Please format your References according to MLA Style (which we will review in class). Additional information about MLA Style can be found on the Purdue Online Writing Lab website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>

As always, please ask me if you have any questions! Remember that my office hours are 11:15am-12:15pm Mondays and Wednesdays (right after class), and am happy to make an appointment to meet with you at other times.

Grading chart for your research paper:

Topic Discussion/Analysis:

| Insufficient (0-2 points) | Developing (3-5 points) | Competent (6-8 points) | Excellent (9-10 points) |
|--|---|--|--|
| The paper lacks a main topic and does not define a coherent research question. | The paper topic is not fully focused, and a research question is not clearly presented. | The paper topic and research question is presented and described, but they have not been considered reflectively. | An appropriate, focused paper topic has been selected, and a research question is considered reflectively. |
| Presents information from irrelevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches. | Presents information from relevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches. | Presents in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches. | Synthesizes in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches. |
| Lists evidence, but is not organized and/or is unrelated to research topic and question. | Organizes evidence, but the organization is not effective in revealing important patterns, differences or similarities. | Organizes and analyzes evidence to reveal some important patterns, differences or similarities related to research question. | Analyzes evidence to reveal insightful patterns, differences or similarities related to research question. |
| States a conclusion which is ambiguous, illogical or unsupported given the analysis. | States a general conclusion that, because it is so general, also applies beyond the scope of the analysis. | States a conclusion focused solely on the analysis. | States a conclusion that is a logical extrapolation, which arises from and responds to the analysis. |

Sources/References:

| Insufficient (0-2 points) | Developing (3-5 points) | Competent (6-8 points) | Excellent (9-10 points) |
|--|---|---|---|
| None of the sources are relevant to the research topic. | Some sources are not relevant to the research topic. | Most sources are relevant to the research topic. | All sources are relevant to the research topic. |
| All or almost all sources used are not appropriate for the assignment, and contain inaccurate, biased, or outdated information from inexperienced authors. | Most sources used are not appropriate for the assignment, and contain inaccurate, biased, or outdated information from inexperienced authors. | Some sources used are not appropriate for the assignment, and contain inaccurate, biased, or outdated information from inexperienced authors. | All sources used are appropriate for the assignment. They are credible sources, and are accurate, expert, objective, and current. |
| Does not use in-text or bibliographic citations in an assignment that incorporates the ideas or work of others. | Most in-text and bibliographic citations contain errors of omission and are formatted inconsistently. | Most in-text and bibliographic citations are accurate, though some contain errors of omission or formatting. | Creates correct, consistent in-text and bibliographic citations using a style manual for guidance. |
| Plagiarizes the work of others | Cites some (but not all) sources | Cites most sources correctly | Applies principles of academic |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| and/or uses quoted material excessively. | correctly when quoting and paraphrasing; employs excessive use of quoted material. | when quoting and paraphrasing; uses quoted material sparingly and appropriately. | integrity in the use of information – all sources are quoted, paraphrased and cited correctly and appropriately. |
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Writing Mechanics:

| Insufficient (0-2 points) | Developing (3-5 points) | Competent (6-8 points) | Excellent (9-10 points) |
|--|---|---|---|
| The research paper is less than 5 pages in length. | - | - | The research paper is at least 5 pages in length, not including References or illustrations. |
| The research paper is not typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font. There is no title page with title, name, course number, and date. | - | - | The research paper is typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font. There is a title page with title, name, course number, and date. |
| All sentences are grammatically incorrect. | Most sentences are grammatically incorrect. | Some sentences are grammatically incorrect. | All or almost all sentences are grammatically correct. |
| All sentences have errors in punctuation, spelling, or capitalization. | Most sentences have errors in punctuation, spelling, or capitalization. | Some sentences have errors in punctuation, spelling, or capitalization. | All or almost all sentences are free of punctuation, spelling, or capitalization errors. |