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| ENG 1101  Spring 2015  **RESEARCH ESSAY** |

12 pt. font

MLA Format

Work Cited page required

Page count: see below

Planning sheet and Brainstorming Sheets required

A formatted Works Cited page.

See length requirements below

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| Begin brainstorming and researching your topic. Note:   * Library Visit: Thursday, April 15 at 10 am   Meet in front of the Library, Atrium Building, 4th Floor |
| **DUE**: Tuesday, April 28. **A** one paragraph summary for each of your three sourcesand the completed Planning Sheet |
| **DUE**: Tuesday, May 5. Complete Research Essay. Research Essays without a Works Cited page will not be accepted. |

A research paper is any paper in which you have used secondary sources to help support *your analysis*. A research paper uses the Modern Language Association (MLA) style, with a Works Cited page showing all of the sources you’ve used and in-text citations (also called parenthetical citations) used for all direct quotations and paraphrases from your sources. A research paper asks you to synthesize and support your own ideas with those of others. Your final grade on this essay will include assessment of how well you have integrated your ideas with the ideas in the text. You will receive a grading rubric in advance to understand how your grade will be assessed.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

For this research assignment, you will draw further on the themes of New York City we have read about in the textbook *The Place Where We Dwell: Reading and Writing About New York City*. You must choose *one* of the following prompts based on our readings and use that text in addition to two other sources found in through the library search engines. You must use three sources: the essay in the text book and two articles using the general search engines **Academic Search Complete** or **Lexis Nexis**.

Choose o**ne** of the following prompts to compose your essay:

1. Nelson George in “Fort Greene Dreams” explores the legacy of famous artists who moved to Fort Greene. Write an essay about a Brooklyn artist and his/her connection to a specific area of Brooklyn. You might choose filmmakers, musicians, dancers, visual artists, or writers.

* **Your thesis** should focus on how that artist’s section of Brooklyn might have influenced the life and/or work of this artist.
* Your research might start with biographical information of the artist, but try to analyze ideas the artists explore through their creative works.

1. Brian Paul’s “Affordable Housing Policies May Spur Gentrification, Segregation” addresses the complicated issues surrounding gentrification in Williamsburg and Greenpoint. For your essay, write about gentrification in your neighborhood in New York City. Use observation and research to give examples of the effects of gentrification that either have happened or might happen in your neighborhood. Directly compare gentrification in your neighborhood to the gentrification in the neighborhoods described in Paul’s essay.

* **Your thesis** should clearly state that gentrification will or won’t create positive change in your neighborhood.
* Your research might start with factual information about a specific neighborhood, such as history or statistics about ethnicities or financial class, but focus on details that relate to how the neighborhood is changing (for better or worse).

1. Responding to Junot Diaz’s essay “The Money” OR Dinaw Mengestu’s “The Man in the Middle,” write an essay that explores how financial strain affects immigrant families or populations new to New York City. You can write about this experience to show how moving to New York City improves financial burdens for families, or how this move creates or increases financial burdens.

* **Your thesis**: should argue for a way for individuals or the city (New York City) to help alleviate the financial stress of immigration.
* Your research might begin exploring which populations live in specific boroughs or statistics that show how many new immigrants arrive in New York City each year or from which countries, but be sure to incorporate ideas from your sources that analyze or define trends or challenges.

**ESSAY STRUCTURE:**

While you will receive a planning sheet, your essay must demonstrate a clear understanding of the classic essay structure:

1. An opening paragraph introducing the topic and your thesis.
2. Three distinct body paragraphs or sections with a clear, focused point of support for your thesis. Each section may include more than one paragraph.
3. A concluding paragraph that thoughtfully draws your ideas together
4. Clear transitions between sections and between your ideas and your references to your sources.
5. A separate Works Cited page identifying your two library sources and the class text and in-text citations for all sources

**LENGTH REQUIREMENT:**

A very well written 3 ½ page paper may qualify for a C.

A very well written 4 page paper may qualify for a B.

A very well written 4 ½ page paper may qualify for an A.

* These page counts do not *guarantee* the above grade.
* These page counts do not include the separate Work Cited page (or pages of lengthy quotations, such as song lyrics), the Planning Sheet, or the Brainstorming sheet.
* You cannot turn in the essay without a Works Cited page

**GRADING:**

You will receive a grading rubric to better understand how I will assess your final grade. As you work remember that this assignment is intended to help you:

* learn to research a topic and to incorporate sources into your writing;
* learn to integrate class readings and to own personal experiences;
* learn to focus each paragraph on a specific subject;
* learn to start each paragraph with a topic sentence;
* learn to use transition statements to move the reader from topic to topic;
* learn to quote from and respond to our assigned readings;
* learn to cite quotations parenthetically according to MLA format;
* learn to write with clear, grammatically correct prose.

These skills will be factored into your final grade.