

---

# RESEARCHED ESSAY

DUE BY 11:59 P.M. ON 5 APRIL 2020

WORTH 20% OF TOTAL CLASS GRADE\*

- 15% for a formal researched essay
- 5% for a multimodal element to be discussed later

APPROX. 1500 WORDS\*

- \*Note, you may go over this amount, but shorter papers are unlikely to meet the content requirements

## **ASSIGNMENT:**

---

In the previous unit, you researched and compiled sources that explored your research question. Now, use that research to write an essay that seeks to answer your research question. You may choose to write your essay as an argument that presents a specific viewpoint or you may write a more informative essay that educates readers about the complex conversation surrounding your topic. In either case, you are synthesizing ideas from your sources with your own original ideas. The claim-support-explanation pattern will help you develop your argument. See Norton chapters 13 and 38 for guidance on writing an argument. Norton chapter 12 provides guidance for a non-argumentative essay. Norton chapters 48-52 will guide you through synthesizing research with your ideas.

Make sure your essay includes the following:

- A qualified thesis (see Norton pages 176 and 399)
- Research from five or more reliable sources (see library resources and Norton chapters 48 and 49)
- A clear organization with transitions to link paragraphs (Purdue Owl transitions material handout or link on BBL, Norton pages 391)
- A consideration of counterargument or other perspectives (Norton pages 178 and 411-413)
- An introduction and conclusion written to appeal to your audience (Norton chapter 35)

Depending on what you discovered in the previous unit, you may need to do additional research to help you answer your research question and fulfill your goals for this essay. Again, make sure that your sources are reliable and relevant. Guidance about evaluating sources is in Norton chapter 49.

## **ASSIGNMENT GOALS**

---

1. To synthesize research into a single argument and transform it into your own words
2. To incorporate quotations into original writing in a meaningful way that adds informational value to your writing
3. To craft a unified thesis which makes a claim which is specific, relevant, and arguable
4. To practice paragraphing, transitioning, and organizing thoughts in a logical way

## **AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE:**

---

Your classmates and your teacher are the first audience for this portfolio. When you publish to your website, it will be a resource for other people who are potentially interested in your topic. If you end up using your website as a professional or student portfolio, this essay becomes a chance to show off your research and critical thinking skills. Your audience, therefore, is broad and may require significant historical or informational context to understand your topic more clearly.

## **FORMAT:**

---

Follow MLA format -- paper should be typed, double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman font or other similar font, standard 1" or 1.25" margins. You should include in-text citations and a works cited page that cites your sources this semester and perhaps even comments from your teacher or peers using in-text citations, signal phrases, and a works cited page.

## **BBL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTION**

---

1. Title your paper EN 102 Research Essay YOURLASTNAME.
2. All papers should be submitted in Blackboard through the "Essay #3 - Research Essay" link found in the Unit Three folder. Example: Course Homepage → Unit Three → Essay #3 - Research Essay.
3. Students should use Firefox or Chrome to submit their essay as a DOCX or PDF only. Blackboard sometimes has significant issues reading other file types. Apple's Safari browser often will not complete a submission.
4. Emailed assignments or assignments shared from Google Drive will not be accepted.