

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT:

Due date for Topic: November 18 (posted to Blackboard thread) by 5pm

Due date for Paper: December 22 (via email) by 5pm

Assignment:

This assignment is for a 11-13 page final research paper (~3500 words). The topic is an analytical examination of some element of the topic you chose to write about for Wikipedia. What exactly you write on or limit yourself to is entirely up to you. But with my help you should find a perspective or angle on your topic that can be analyzed using some of the ideas and lenses that we have explored this semester in the readings and discussions.

Unlike other papers you probably write, you have already done much of the research. Now it is time to *think* about your research. What are the analytical lenses you might use? What you might do to get at some of these things is to ask questions: Why is [this situation/this place/this group] the way it is? What are the factors that make it so? What are the ways that [subject/place/group] is interpreted and what does that mean? For some of you, the angle on your paper may be in answering questions more along the lines of “What were the contexts behind the founding of [group] and how has [group’s] existence changed the field?”

Most importantly, I want you to use your own brain to analyze the material in a brilliant and academic manner.

Examples:

Hayley, WP entry: Confession of 1967. Paper topic: the influence of this Confession on current interpretations of Presbyterian church positions regarding the future of the church.

JM, WP entry: Weir High School. Possible paper topics:

- a particular issue in high school education in WV and how WHS fits into that (for example, the higher test scores at WHS and why? Or why the high number of special education students?)

Joe, WP entry: Film Studies. Possible paper topics:

- the influence of film studies on film production
- the theoretical developments that accompany the new technologies of film (3-D or YouTube)

Please check with me throughout this process as you develop your topic and find the analytical perspectives for it. Just send me a well-thought-out email with your questions and ideas or come see me in my office hours. This paper should build on your Wikipedia project and not repeat it. Do remember that I want an analytical paper that has an argument and a thesis. I do not want a descriptive paper or only a review of the literature (so-and-so says this and so-and-so says that ...).

Paper Details:

-- Proofread your paper. If I find 5 or more sloppy spelling or grammar mistakes, I will deduct 1/3 of a grade from your paper grade.

-- At the top of the page, put the following information:

Name, Title, Date, Word Count (not including footnotes)

-- Use footnotes (not endnotes) – choose a citation style (options here:

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html>

-- You must have a Bibliography or Works Cited

-- You must turn Topic and Paper in on time or your grade will be reduced 1/3 of a grade per 24 hours

-- Please use page numbers