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Research Paper & Research Paper Proposal

*This document contains the instructions for *both* assignments. Make sure you submit each assignment separately, to its proper box. Read the ENTIRE document before you begin either assignment. *

Research Paper Proposal: (5 points)

- 1 page maximum. PLEASE, do not submit more than one page. Save your writing for the research paper.
- I will respond, with any changes/adjustments you should make to your research topic, within 72 hrs of the due date.
- Your proposal needs to be “Approved” by me before starting your research paper. If I do not approve your first submission, I will ask you to re-submit.
- Please do not e-mail me your topic to ask for approval. That is what the proposal is for.
- Please answer the questions below in numbered (not paragraph) format.
- Answer these questions:

1. What is the topic of your research paper? Please choose a **narrow, college-level** topic that will "fit" into 5-6 pages. If your topic is too broad or too simple, I will ask you to narrow it down and re-do this assignment. Example: “The life of Cleopatra,” and “The four pillars of Islam” are too broad and too simple for a college-level paper. These topics are more appropriate for middle or high school. ***Do you need help deciding on a topic? Look over the table of contents in our text, and/or the discussion topics that were provided for each learning module... What topic/s interest you the most? Which would you like to research and find out more about? This is a great place to start, because the more you are interested in something, the more you will want to research and write about it!***

2. What (4 or more) sources, in addition to the textbook, will you research?

- Please read the instructions for the Research Paper to find out what sources are appropriate.
- Two of your sources must be from a scholarly journal or book (other than the textbook).
- The campus librarians can help you receive material electronically if you cannot physically go to the library.
- You need to list the **specific** sources that you plan to use (**don't** just put: encyclopedia, library, ebsco, internet, etc..).

- You are allowed to add more sources to your research paper later.

3. How is this topic or argument relevant to our course? Your topic must **directly** relate to the material covered in our textbook.

4. What is your **thesis statement?**...a one-sentence **statement** (not a question) in which you will provide an argument for your paper. The remainder of your research paper will provide facts, which prove your thesis statement. If you have forgotten what a thesis statement is from your English Research course (which is a pre-req. for this course), please take some time to do an internet search on this, ask an English teacher, or ask your advisor.

Formatting For both Assignments:

- Papers must be double spaced, 1inch margins for top and bottom, 1.25 inch for left and right.
- Readable fonts only: Times New Roman, Arial, or Courier. **12 pt. font**
- Please save your paper as either a .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf file, and submit your paper as an **attachment** to the correct dropbox.

Research Paper: (18 points)

- Minimum **5 to 6** maximum pages of writing. This does not include the cover page, the proposal, works cited, and/or the optional image pages.
- Make sure that you are writing a **research** paper and not an *essay* paper. Your paper should be filled with information that can be backed up with the sources that you researched. It should not be filled with your personal views.
- You must have at least **4 sources**, in addition to the text, to research and use in your paper (as stated above). If using a website, please consider the respectability of the site...Wikipedia is NOT a scholarly source and should not be used for this purpose.
- Cite all sources on a separate "Works Cited" page.
- Since this is a research paper, you must correctly use **internal citations**. Please do not use footnotes.
- You are welcome to include photos in your paper (if they are necessary). You should

label them “Figure 1, etc...” and put them on a separate page, at the end of your paper. They will not count toward the 5-6 pages of required writing.

- You can use MLA or APA standards for your internal citations and formatting. Everyone should know how to do this from your English Research course, which is a prerequisite for this course.
- No more than 25% of your paper should be directly quoted. Please avoid long quotes (paraphrase instead). If you must include a long quote, you should single space and indent the quote. I WILL CHECK YOUR PAPER FOR PLAGIARISM.
- As stated in the Syllabus, Plagiarism is strictly forbidden. You will receive 0 points on your assignment if you have plagiarized your information, *even if you have not intended to*. For example: If you copy information, word for word, from a source, you MUST put it in quotations ("") and state the source. Also, simply rearranging someone else’s words (or substituting a word here and there) is plagiarism. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. If you need further explanation, go to <http://www.plagiarism.org/>

More Info:

- Your Works Cited or Reference Page is its own page, at the end.
- Your sources can be cited in either MLA or APA format on your Works Cited/Reference page.
- Your heading should go on a cover sheet (not on each page).
- You do not need to write an abstract, but you do need to include your proposal. Please submit all pages as one document.
- Your pages should be in one document and in this order:
 - Cover Page (This is where your heading goes. It should not be on any of the remaining pages)
 - Copy of your proposal
 - 1st page of writing
 - 2nd page of writing
 - 3rd page of writing
 - 4th page of writing
 - 5th page of writing
 - 6th page of writing (optional)
 - Works Cited page
 - Images/Photos (optional)

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Example Topics: (Please do NOT use any of these. They are meant to give you an idea of the level of topics I would approve)

1. Investigate the beliefs of the Greek Orthodox Church. How are these beliefs reflected in Byzantine art?
2. Investigate and report on the education of women during the High Middle Ages. The medical school at Salerno and the law school at Bologna admitted women students at a time when almost every other school refused. Discuss why these schools admitted women.
3. Compare and contrast the view of women proposed in the Prologue to the “Wife of Bath’s Tale” and the view proposed by Christine de Pisan in The Book of the City of Ladies.
4. Locate Thucydides’ description of the plague that killed Pericles. Compare the symptoms he describes to Boccaccio’s description of the Black Death in the Decameron or to a medical description of the bubonic plague or ebola virus. Why were plagues so deadly in ancient times? How did the design of ancient cities and the personal-hygiene practices contribute to the spread of disease?
5. How do American war memorials differ from Roman war memorials?
6. Investigate the nature of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius that buried Pompeii. Compare and contrast this eruption to an eruption of Mount Aetna, Mount Saint Helens, or Kilauea.
7. Examine examples that reflect the influence of Rome on our present-day language, laws, political institutions, religious practices/superstitions, sculpture, and architecture.
8. Investigate the contributions made by the ancient Chinese to astronomy, rocketry, and/or pottery making. Report on your findings.
9. Compare Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech to the writings of the Hebrew prophets. How do King’s subject matter and oratorical style reveal the influence of the Hebrew prophets?
10. Wine has an important symbolism in Christianity, in Judaism, and in the cult of

Dionysios. Investigate the nature of wine and role it plays in religions.



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