

Research Paper Overview

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The final goal of this project is to produce a well-written research paper based on a critical literary analysis which will:

- Demonstrate the ability to use the writing process to complete a critical assignment.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze an audience and select an appropriate written communication style. (*No personal voice.*)
- Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of sources.
- Synthesize information from a variety of sources into a new document.
- Analyze the selected stories: do not review, nor summarize the plots.
- Avoid historical perspective; the goal of the paper is to analyze literature.

SECTIONS

01. Declare a topic and thesis statement. **due: 06.25, Tuesday**
02. Turn in five-to-six page document: **due: 07.01, Monday**

REQUIRED SOURCES

- Three academic journals from school database
- Only utilize the following sources:
- Academic Search Complete (EBSCO), JSTOR Journal Archive, or Literature Resource Guide (Gale)
 - eLibrary (ProQuest)
- **Avoid** using Wikipedia, Ask, Bing, Google, or any other commercial-based site.
 - *Remember the class text book is your required primary source for all material.*

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Five to six full pages *plus* an additional work cited page
- Entire paper is double spaced, following MLA standard template

final project

POTENTIAL TOPIC IDEAS: BRAINSTORMING CONCEPTS

Below are sample topics. Choose one as a focus for your paper, manipulating the observations to suit your purposes. *Utilize critical analysis to support your theories.*

1. Compare Chaucer's character the Wife of Bath with Marie de France's unnamed Fairy-Queen. What similar characteristics exist between the two? Which appears as a stronger, more realistic portrayal of a woman of the period? Some have argued that the characters can be seen as anti-woman stereotypes. Some counter that the characters are actually strong feminist roles. What is unique about their construction and actions within their stories?
2. Compare King Lear with the King Beowulf. Why is it important that the authors select men past their prime years? What common weaknesses exist between them? Does a commonality exist with their strengths and developments as a character?
3. Examine the love expressed in the cycle of sonnets by Spenser against the love expressed in the sonnets attributed to Shakespeare. What is common about their use of anti-Petrarchan ideals? Propose why the English were prone to experiment with the sonnet-form. What is different about their declaration of love towards their Beloveds? Is Shakespeare's private work more honest and personal than the public declarations of love by Spenser? Use two specific poems not discussed in class, one from each poet, as example as defense.
4. Sonnets frequently discuss the relationship of the poet with his Beloved as well as the poet's relationship with the craft of poetry. The poet's skill is often compared to his power of love. Public sonnet sequences are more concerned with the processes of writing than with love itself—whereas private poems such as the ones written by Lady Mary Wroth and the ones attributed to Shakespeare are more concerned with the relationship between the Beloved and the Poet. Use two specific poems not discussed in class, one from each poet, as example as defense. Discuss.
5. Wild card.

Research Paper Step-by-Step

Construction of your final analysis project should follow a basic concept such as provided below. Remember, every paragraph consists of five (or more) sentences.

I. Introduction Paragraph establishes topic of paper and declares thesis.

- the full name of all authors must be shown
- the full title of each work must be shown
- explain any of the unifying elements within the works (characterizations, motifs, images, symbols, literary movement, genre, etc.)
- state thesis at close of ¶: thesis states main points of analysis (three elements examined)
- never show quotes in introductory paragraphs

II. Paragraph (¶) 2 provides quick summary of both plots.

- summary must be concise, precise, minimal
- each story's synopsis should be less than four sentences
- this is the only section for plot synopsis

III. Paragraph 3 identifies multiple themes between the stories / poems

- compare/contrast what you see as the two primary themes
- why is the theme significant? what makes it stand out?
- are they treated similarly?
- does one go in a different direction?
- how does this tie in to your thesis?

IV. Paragraph 4 - Paragraph 20 shows research and observations from you, the critic

- Examine characters, conflicts, archetypes, symbols, narration, scenes, plot format, figurative language, authors' intentions (see analytical check list provided earlier)
- **in every ¶ include quotes from primary source or from critics; cite pages.**
- analyze each quote supplied; never end ¶ with quote

VI. Concluding Paragraph states main point of paper

- acts as a confirmation of the critic's analysis
- restates thesis in new fashion; main points are summarized with logical connections *and* further, **final** analysis; this is your most important point in the document,
- never present quotes in conclusion paragraphs

basic outline

Research Essay

Paper is 5-6 pages, double spaced, 12 point font _____ Yes _____ No • on time

	Content: 40 points	
	1. Introduction states narrowed topic and a clearly appropriate, literary thesis or purpose, and major points.	36-40 A 32-35 B
	2. Writer provides ample relevant examples, reasons, and analysis of sources to support the thesis without over quoting selected resource material.	28-31 C 24-27 D 0-23 F
	3. Paper avoids over quotations and summarizing, but focuses on analysis and in-depth exploration of topic.	
	4. Author avoids needless repetition and uses a vivid, scholarly vocabulary, as well as maintains sentence structure variety, sentence introduction variation, and flow.	
	5. All paragraphs have clear topic sentences.	
	6. Content has originality/character/style and contains perceptive ideas.	
	7. All paragraphs consist of 5 sentences or more.	
	8. Paper is correct page count and proper presentation. (See above.)	
	Total Points:	
	Organization: 15 points	
	1. Paper includes an introduction, body, conclusion, and works cited that work together clearly and concisely.	14-15 A 12-13 B
	2. Author follows logical outline that clearly develops the thesis and does not stray from the topic.	11 C 9-10 D 0-8 F
	3. Paragraphs are fully developed with a clear purpose and smooth transitions.	
	Total Points:	
	Mechanics and Grammar: 20 points	
	1. Writing is free of grammar errors such as word usage, agreement, proper structure, etc.	18-20 A 16-17 B
	2. All sentences are punctuated correctly with few to no mechanical errors.	14-15 C 12-13 D 0-11 F
	3. Paper uses formal diction: no contractions, no colloquialism.	
	4. Paper utilizes correct spelling.	
	Total Points:	
	MLA documentation: 25 points	
	1. Each quotation/paraphrase/summary is introduced smoothly.	23-25 A 20-22 B
	2. Each quotation/paraphrase/summary is significant to thesis.	18-19 C 15-17 D 0-14 F
	3. Parenthetical citations included appropriately.	
	4. Documentation of paraphrases and quotes punctuated correctly.	
	5. Ellipses, quotation marks are handled appropriately.	
	6. All paraphrases and quotes have entry on the Works Cited.	
	7. Works Cited entries are in appropriate formats.	
	8. At least 3 secondary sources, plus preliminary source	
	9. All sources listed on Works Cited are used in paper at least once.	
	10. All headings, headers, and margins are in proper format.	
	Total Points:	

final project