
Final Paper**OVERVIEW**

This argumentative essay is your opportunity to more fully explore and articulate your thinking in response to a particular question, problem, or issue raised in this class. Your paper should:

- be interesting for you to write and for others to read,
- respond to a major or minor theme of the course,
- address and provide evidence (generally in the form of close reading) from one or more of the literary texts we have read in class this quarter,
- articulate and engage a conversation among the academic readings we have done this quarter, and
- present a specific and focused argument in response to this conversation that demonstrates your ability to critically engage with the texts and ideas/information introduced in class.

AUDIENCE / ROLE AS A WRITER

For this paper, you will need to carefully consider the role from which you write and the audience you want to address. You will have three primary options:

1. To take up the role of the public intellectual as you compose your essay, considering the broad audience that will have access to your writing online
2. To try out the discourse of one of the disciplines we read from, considering an academic audience
3. To practice the discourse of an academic discipline with which you have prior experience and consider scholars in that field as your audience

A FEW WORDS OF ADVICE:

- Begin with a line of inquiry that develops out of what you find interesting, wrong-headed, surprising, or thought-provoking about the discussions we've had and the readings you've done. But don't stop with an evaluation.
- Be sure to articulate the question, problem, or issue that you are addressing as clearly as you present your argument in response to it.
- It is very important that you demonstrate understanding of others' ideas and positions adequate for the purposes of your argument, but your focus should be on what you can do with the ideas others have brought to your attention.
- Remember to consider your claim, available evidence, and the length of this paper all in relation to one another to determine the best way to craft a persuasive, well-supported argument.

NOTES ON MODELS FOR WRITING

The academic readings we have done this quarter will help not only to inform and give you something specific to respond to in your argument, but also to inform your writing. Different disciplines ask different questions, build arguments in different ways, and also present them differently in writing. Part of being a successful writer while navigating multiple disciplines as a student is to be attentive to these differences in order to learn to write to various audiences.

FORMATTING AND DOCUMENTATION

- 8-10 double-spaced pages in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1 inch margins
- All sources (including course readings) must be cited (both in the text and in a bibliography on a separate page). MLA is the standard for literary scholarship, but as long as you document your sources clearly and consistently you may use other systems.

RELEVANT COURSE GOALS

- To develop a multifaceted understanding of the social functions and possibilities of language
- To enliven your capacities for making sense in both critical and creative modes
- To cultivate critical awareness of the ethical, cultural, and political dimensions of the ideas you encounter and explore
- To formulate your own lines of inquiry and paths of exploration that synthesize or integrate different perspectives and approaches to constructing knowledge
- To demonstrate the ability to effectively address different audiences and contexts, in speech and writing, both within and outside the classroom

EVALUATION

Your ultimate goal for this paper is to show what you can do with what you've learned in this class this quarter. Your paper will be evaluated on how well it meets the following set of criteria:

- The argument is appropriately complex, based in a claim that emerges from and explores a line of inquiry relevant to the course.
- The stakes of the argument, why what is being argued matters, are articulated and persuasive.
- The argument involves analysis and close reading, which are the close scrutiny and examination of assumptions and textual evidence in support of a larger set of ideas.
- The writing is intertextual, meaning that a "conversation" between texts and ideas is created in support of your goals.
- The writing has a clear understanding of its audience, and various aspects of the writing (mode of inquiry, content, structure, evidence, appeals, tone, sentences, and word choice) address and are strategically pitched to that audience.

DEADLINES

	When	How
Final paper proposal:	by 5pm, Friday, 17 Nov 2006	discussion board
Revised proposal:	Tuesday, 21 Nov 2006	in class
Final paper draft:	by 5pm, Saturday, 2 Dec 2006 (returned by Tuesday, 5 Dec 2006)	email
Final paper:	by 5pm, Wednesday, 13 Dec 2006	email

Final Paper Proposal

PROPOSAL

The goal of these proposals is to get your thinking focused while you still have enough time to do something interesting with it. Posting them gives you the chance to develop your plans in response to your peers' plans and feedback. Your 400-550 word proposal should include:

- the question, issue, or concern (*i.e.*, line of inquiry) you are addressing
- the readings you have selected and their arguments as you will address them
- the literary text(s) you will analyze
- your proposed claim and argument (in relation to 1-3 above)
- an illustration of how you will use close reading to support your argument
- any necessary context (with reference to specific resources)
- the larger stakes of your claim/argument (*i.e.*, why does it matter?)
- questions for your classmates

Proposals must be posted to the discussion board by 5pm, Friday, 17 Nov 2006

RESPONSES

You will post a response to at least three of your classmates' proposals. If you are at all concerned about your participation in class this quarter, I highly recommend that you take this opportunity to boost it by responding to more than three proposals.

Note: Each proposal posted by the due date must receive *at least* three responses. This means that you should reply to posts with the fewest responses until every post has three.

Responses must be posted to the discussion board by 5pm, Sunday, 19 Nov 2006