

ENGL 1100
Composition I
Dr. Adam Abraham
Spring 2020

ESSAY NO. 3 RESEARCH

Proposal DUE: Monday 30 March by 4:30 pm
Attach a file and email to asa0047@auburn.edu
In the subject line write “RESEARCH PROPOSAL”

First draft DUE: Tuesday 7 April OR Thursday 9 April
Email before your scheduled appointment [changed from syllabus]

Final draft DUE: Friday 17 April by 4:30 pm
Attach a file and email to asa0047@auburn.edu
In the subject line write “RESEARCH ESSAY”

The final essay will serve as a culmination of the course. It will draw on the summarization skills of Essay No. 1 and the analytical skills of Essay No 2, along with the research skills that undergraduates should develop.

Each student will choose a contemporary public debate, gather resources, and construct a compelling argument. Two topics are OFF THE TABLE: free college and the electoral college. Anything else can work. However, the topic must be debatable—one of those cases in which “reasonable people” may disagree. A poor choice would be: “Was Charles Dickens born in 1812?” There is no debate on this topic. Another poor choice would be something like “Do ancient extra-terrestrials control human destiny?” A good choice might be “Should elections in the U.S. be publicly funded?”

This is a research essay, and each student is required to quote a minimum of three sources. Four or five or more sources may be appropriate. At the minimum, one source must be a newspaper or magazine ARTICLE; one must be a peer-reviewed ARTICLE (to be explained later); and the other source can be any other print or electronic item.

Make sure you articulate a clear argument and support it with reasons and evidence.

PROPOSAL

Write an essay proposal, no more than one page in length, that will inform and entice your reader. Answer the following questions: What is your topic? Why this topic? Do you have a personal connection to it? Why would this topic matter to you or anyone? What do you expect to learn?

STEPS

1. Brainstorm topics.
2. Enter notes in a paper notebook or a Word file with a name like "Essay 3 Notes."
3. Develop and refine research questions and outline ideas.
4. Find a minimum of three sources: periodical, peer-reviewed, and one other.
5. Create a working bibliography (later, your works cited will be drawn from this).
6. Write and submit your proposal.
7. Read your sources carefully and take notes in your notebook/file.
8. Write a well-organized essay, in multiple paragraphs, with an argument.
9. Email a first draft and discuss in video conference with Dr. Abraham.
10. Generate corrections based on the conference and submit the final draft

SUGGESTED TOPICS

These are simply suggestions. You are welcome to brainstorm any other ideas (with two exceptions noted above).

- Should the penny be abolished?
- Should the legal drinking age be lowered or raised even higher?
- Does the U.S. incarcerate too many of its citizens?
- Should the national minimum wage be increased?
- Are there too many guns in the U.S.?
- Is health care a human right?
- Are standardized tests good for education?
- Is the Internet making people stupid?
- Is it ethical to eat animals?
- Are we living in the golden age of television?

REQUIREMENTS

- Use 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper.
- Print on ONE SIDE of the page only. NOT double-sided.
- Use a normal, 12-point font, with serifs, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half.

In Microsoft Word, you should select “2.0.”

- Follow the conventions of edited American English. When in doubt, consult *The Chicago Manual of Style*.
- Approximate length = 1,500 words.
- Number the pages and include your last name in the upper-right corner (with the exception of the first page).
- In the upper-left corner of the first page, include the following information:

Your Name

Essay No. 3

Word Count (number)

Date

- One line below that, write a title for your essay, centered, using mixed case (Capitals and lowercase). Do not italicize or underline. Do not use bold print or quotation marks.
- At the end of the essay, include a list of works cited.

REFLECTIVE LETTER

When you submit the FINAL DRAFT, the last page of your submission should be in the form of a letter to Dr. Abraham. This will be a reflective account of your writing process. Write no more than one page and discuss the following:

How do you feel about this essay? What questions do you still have? Where was the text produced? How much time did it take? What strategies were employed? What steps did you take? How did you benefit from peer-review and/or instructor comments?

If you want more guidance, feel free to visit during office hours or set an appointment.