

ENGL 620-901
The Victorians and After
Dr. Adam Abraham
Spring 2019

FINAL ESSAY

DUE: Monday 6 May by 4:30 pm
Hibbs Hall, Room 306, Adam Abraham's Mailbox

Each student will write a final essay that will serve as the capstone for the course. You are invited to write on ANY aspect of our topic: The Victorians and After. Write a substantial, well-informed, articulate essay that engages with one or two primary sources (drawn from the weekly schedule). High-scoring essays will typically engage with two or more secondary sources. You may find these on JSTOR, Project Muse, the Recommended Reading list (page 6 of the syllabus), and elsewhere.

In order to prepare for the final essay, each student is asked to “pitch” her proposed topic in the form of a talk, no more than five minutes. Do not generate a PowerPoint or anything elaborate. Simply talk through your ideas: your proposed texts, an incipient argument, questions you want to raise, problems you foresee. The group will offer suggestions and further questions to consider. The presentation dates are Monday 22 April and Monday 29 April. Please submit a preferred date, if you have one.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

- Submit in HARD COPY only.
- Use 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper.
- Print on ONE SIDE of the page only. NOT double-sided.
- Maximum length is 4,000 words, including the title, notes, works cited (if any).
- Use a normal, 12-point font, such as Times or Times New Roman.
- Double-space EVERY LINE. Double-space is not single-space or space-and-one-half.
- Staple all pages together. Do not use a binder or a folder.
- For citations, follow *The Chicago Manual of Style*. There is no better book on the subject of English language usage. Do not use MLA style, with its parenthetical references. Use footnotes or endnotes for all references.

ON CHICAGO STYLE

Think of the essay as an opportunity to develop your skill set using *Chicago* and its system of footnotes/endnotes. Cite all sources through footnotes (at the bottom of the page) OR endnotes (at the end of the document). Microsoft Word is cleverly designed to help you here. Click on “Insert” > “Footnote” and choose among the options.

For the first appearance of a given text, a citation may look like this:

1. Sarah Waters, *Fingersmith* (New York: Riverhead Books, 2002), page number.

For an article or a book chapter:

2. Summer J. Star, “Feeling Real in *Middlemarch*,” *ELH* 80, no. 3 (2013): 850.
3. Juliet John, “Heritage Dickens; or, Culture and the Commodity,” in *Dickens and Mass Culture* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 242.

For reprints of older titles, it is helpful to include the original publication date in addition to data on the edition you are using. Thus:

4. Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield* (1849–1850; London: Penguin Books, 2004), 703–704.

For subsequent references to a text, use shortened references:

5. Waters, *Fingersmith*, 325.

If it is clear from the context which work you mean, you might instead use a parenthetical reference to the page number (no author or title). Note that all of the above are in footnote/endnote style. You are not expected to include a bibliography or works-cited list. But if you do, please note that the format is different. For a more thorough discussion, see chapter 14 of *The Chicago Manual Style*.