Completing Your Proposal and Research Paper

This assignment sheet gives you instructions for
- Finding a Topic for Your Research Paper
- Creating a List of Sources for Your Research Paper
- Writing Your Annotated Bibliography
- Writing Your Research Proposal
- Writing Your Research Paper and Abstract
- Presenting Your Research Paper to the Class

Finding a Topic for Your Research Paper
You will base your research paper for this class in textual analysis. To choose a topic, either 1) find a book or an article important to your major/minor—this work’s publication should have changed thinking in your field or be considered a seminal work in your field (you need to verify this with an instructor from your major/minor or your research librarian and show me the verification) or 2) choose a work that we’ve read in class this semester. In your research paper, you will analyze the argument/content of the work you choose and then situate this argument/content within the scholarly responses you find to it. Your final research paper should be 8-10 pages long and use six scholarly sources that directly comment on the work you choose.

**Topic Due:** Tuesday, March 30, beginning of class, with your scavenger hunt

Creating a List of Sources for Your Research Paper
To create a list of sources for your research paper
- Spend Wednesday, March 24, and Friday March 26, in the UNT library finding six print-based sources for your research paper. These sources should be at least five pages long and have been written as recently as possible given your topic.
- Record your search criteria (terms you used to search) and which database you found each source in
- Bring copies of your six sources (with your list of search criteria and databases) to class.

**List of Sources Due:** Tuesday, March 30, beginning of class, with your scavenger hunt report

Preparing Your Annotated Bibliography
To complete your annotated bibliography,
1. Create an alphabetized list of sources for your research paper in correct MLA format.
2. Write a 150-word summary of each source
3. Write a 250 word introduction to your bibliography that tells why you chose these sources and how they contribute to your research paper.
4. Format your paper following the sample annotated bibliography at our class web site.

**Bibliographic Citations Due:** Thursday, April 1, beginning of class
**Annotated Bibliography Due:** Friday, April 9, high noon at LB407A

Writing Your Proposal
Write a proposal for your research paper that includes the following sections:
- An Introduction that reminds readers of your project
- A Problem Statement that explains why you are investigating the particular topic that you’ve chosen to research—why it’s important to you personally and why the rest of the world should care
- A Work Statement that provides an abstract (150-200 words) of your paper (including your thesis), an outline for your paper, and list sources you will use for your paper
- A Conclusion that summarizes your project briefly and provides contact information

**Rough Draft Due:** Tuesday, April 13, beginning of class
**Proposal Due:** Friday, April 16, high noon at LB407A

Writing Your Research Paper and Abstract
Write a research paper with 8-10 pages of body text about the topic you have submitted and I have approved. (You may not change your topic once I approve it.) Your paper should follow all MLA formatting guidelines (including those for quotations and in-text citations), include a “Works Cited” page with a complete list of your sources, and begin with a 250-word abstract.

**Rough Draft Due:** Tuesday, May 4, beginning of class
**Research Paper Due:** Tuesday, May 11, beginning of exam period (10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Presenting Your Research Paper to the Class
You will present your research paper to the class on **Tuesday, May 11**, during the exam period. Your presentation should include 3-5 Power Point slides that summarize your paper for the class and should be approximately 4-6 minutes long.

**Please note:** If you fail to turn in any of the above assignments by the deadline, you will not only receive a zero for the assignment, but a 25-point deduction from your research paper as well.