

Essay #3: Analytical Research Paper

Assignment Description

For this assignment, you will **choose a text (print, video, audio, image, etc.)** that addresses a social, political, economic, or cultural issue that interests you, and write a **6-8 page (1500-2000 words) Analytical Research Paper** on it. Keep summary and description to a bare minimum. Instead, focus your essay on making a compelling argument about the meaning of the text with detailed textual analysis supported with **a minimum of 3 scholarly sources and 2 popular media sources**. Imagine you are writing this essay for a scholarly journal or critical anthology on the author's work.

To analyze something is to **ask what that something means**. An analytical essay answers **how something does what it does or why it is as it is**. Accordingly, your essay should include a **thesis statement that answers a specific HOW or WHY question about the meaning of your text**. In other words, your thesis should not only refer to specific patterns in the text that help you establish its meaning (*HOW?*), but it should also illuminate how this meaning relates to a real world context (*WHY?*). See sample thesis below

Sample Thesis Statement

For additional support refer to [What is a Thesis Statement?](#) Handout.

Specific reference to a real world context + **Specific reference to a pattern in the text** + contextual explanation of its meaning

From the Marxist view, **the process of the metamorphosis** symbolizes the class struggles of the proletariat to break out of a life of being exploited. Such representation is displayed [*in The Metamorphosis*] in the similarity between the causes, nature, and ending of Gregor's transformation and those of proletarian struggles.

Short Writing Assignments

Throughout the research process, you will write short assignments that will help you produce a thoughtful thesis statement and evaluate your sources before you begin your composition.

- **BLOG #6: Essay #3 Topic Reflection** -- *Write a short informal essay (250-500 words) in which you identify your chosen text and propose a specific, arguable thesis statement about its meaning*
- **BLOG #7 - Essay #3 Source List** -- *Identify three scholarly articles that you will use as the basis for your Analytical Research Paper*

Sample Essays

- [“Choose Wisely”: J. Cole Alters the Way the Black Community Recognizes Mental Health](#) by Kayla Cason, Spring 2019
- [“So No One Told You Life Was Gonna Be This Way” Hypermasculinity in F.R.I.E.N.D.S](#) by Jamirka De León, Spring 2019

Format

1500-2000 words; Size 12 font, Times New Roman, standard margins, double-spaced.

Cite all outside sources in proper MLA format. You must include a Works Cited page with your essay. **Note: Works Cited page does not count toward the word count.*

- [MLA In-Text Citations: The Basics](#)
- [MLA Sample Works Cited Page](#)
- [MLA Sample Paper](#)

Submission

Upload a digital copy of your **Final Draft** as a Word file (.doc or .docx) via Blackboard **no later than Tuesday, December 1st at 11:59pm.**

Timeline

NOV 2	Review Essay #3: Analytical Research Paper Assignment Sheet
NOV 5	BLOG #6: Essay #3 Topic Reflection DUE
NOV 12	BLOG #7: Essay #3 Source List
NOV 19	ESSAY #3 FIRST DRAFT DUE
NOV 24	Post peer review comments to Bb
DEC 1	ESSAY #3 FINAL DRAFT DUE

Evaluation Rubric

Thesis Statement - 10%

- Is your essay controlled by clear, precise, well-defined thesis statement?
- Does your thesis sentence attempt to answer (or at least to explore) a challenging intellectual question?

Content - 25%

- Does your essay provide a compelling and original analysis of the text?
- Are your ideas united and logically organized in a way that leads to a thought-provoking conclusion?

Development - 25%

- Are your main points well supported with sufficient (but not excessive) use of evidence?
- Does your essay use well-chosen examples and persuasive reasoning to develop and support your thesis consistently?

Organization - 25%

- Does your essay have a coherent structure?
- Are your ideas united and logically organized in a way that leads to a thought-provoking conclusion?
- Are your paragraphs focused on distinct units of thought, controlled by specific and detailed topic sentences?
- Do you implement appropriate, clear, and smooth transitions?

Style - 10%

- Are the sentences well-worded and well-constructed? Should some sentences be combined for clarity? Should others be broken into two or more sentences, so ideas receive proper emphasis?
- Do you use quotations and MLA citations effectively?

Grammar -5%

- Have you proofread and edited your piece for grammatical and punctuation errors?