ENC 1102 Research Project

Research Project (total 36.6% of grade, 3660 points)

- Note cards (75 at 2.5 points each) — NO CREDIT IF NOT ON TIME  175 ------- 1.75%
- Source cards (11 at 5 points each) — NO CREDIT IF NOT ON TIME  55 ------- 0.55%
- Research question / working thesis statement  50 ------- 0.50%
- Summary (175-205 words = 1 paragraph)  190 ------ 1.90%
- Sample Paraphrase (175-205 words = 1 paragraph)  190 ------ 1.90%
- Working outlines (100 points each)  200 ------- 2.00%
- Rough drafts sent to professional tutor (SmarThinking/tutoring center)  200 ------- 2.00%
- Conferences (100 points each)  200 ------- 2.00%
- Peer reviews (100 points each)  200 ------- 2.00%
- Final research paper (2100-2300 words = 11-12 paragraphs) with Works Cited page (5+ sources actually cited in paper)  2200 ------- 22.00%

Research Paper (RP) Assignment:
Write a 2,100-2,300-word research paper on a classic literary work of your choice (subject to approval by your instructor). You might relate a work to its author’s life, to its historical context, to a myth, to its author’s or protagonist’s gender (the options are innumerable), but a literary work or works must be a major focus of the paper. The only restriction is that you cannot choose Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein as your sole focus. Submit each of the five steps—inventing / collecting (note cards), organizing (thesis and outline), drafting, revising (tutoring and peer reviews), and proofreading—and the final RP with works cited page by the dates listed on the class calendar.

Examples of research questions / RP topics:
1) Is Scarlett O’Hara in Gone with the Wind a feminist character? / Address the idea of Scarlett O’Hara in Gone with the Wind as a feminist character
2) Does Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness express universal truths about human societies that could also apply to modern-day political conflicts? / Investigate how Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness expresses universal truths about human societies that could also apply to modern-day political conflicts
3) What do symbols (such as windows and doors) represent in Wuthering Heights? / Examine the use of symbols to emphasize social exclusion in Wuthering Heights

Examples of working thesis statements for RP:
1) In Gone with the Wind, Margaret Mitchell’s protagonist, Scarlett O’Hara, develops strength but never reaches what modern feminists would consider independence.
2) By showing that different societies define brutality differently, Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness is still relevant even to 21st-century political conflicts.
3) In Wuthering Heights, novelist Emily Brontë employs contrasting symbols of the refined and confining indoors with the freeing, wild outdoors to express her Romantic philosophy.

Summary of RP book:
- Write a one-paragraph (175-205-word) summary of the book you have chosen to cover in your research paper. Keep it brief! This is due Thursday, Sept. 19.

Sample Paraphrase:
- This assignment will be done in class Sept. 12.

Outline for RP:
- Thesis statement
- At least seven to ten topic sentences for the primary support points
- About 10 to 20 supporting details/examples, one or more for each primary point

Works Cited page for RP:
- Must use AT LEAST five different sources in the final paper
- Format in MLA style
- Times New Roman 12-point font, hanging indent
Note cards (see examples below):

- At least 75 index cards, each with one point that relates to the thesis
- At least 11 different sources (five of which must actually be cited in paper)
- Varied sources: some books and some periodicals (at least one printed), and some non-print media sources from the library’s databases (NOT OPEN INTERNET SOURCES! “Non-print” means anything that has been published electronically. It may also be available in print.)

Sample SOURCE card

3” x 5” card
MLA documentation of source, one source per card

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
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Sample NOTE card

4” x 6” card
Letter to correspond to source card, with one idea or point, along with page(s) cited

| A-1 |

Direct quote:
“The most assured piece in the new collection is a brief, undated essay called ‘Wailing Shall Be in All Streets.’ Vonnegut is writing about Dresden, naturally. One need only replace the noun ‘Germany’ with ‘Iraq,’ however, to discern the unique prophetic role Vonnegut continues to play in our literary culture.” (Almond, screen 1)

OR

Paraphrase:
“Wailing Shall Be in All Streets” addresses Germany but could be applied equally to 21st-century Iraq. (Almond, screen 1)