

## **Research Paper**

ENGL 108: Rhetorics of Science and Medicine

By this point, you have picked a topic that you care about and done research in order to understand the conversation in the field. Now you're going to make a claim and flesh that claim out in the form of a research paper. This project will ask you to use scholarly and popular sources to construct a fully researched argument. You will assess, summarize, and synthesize sources to present an argument to a community of scholarly peers. This will help you practice entering the conversation of an academic discipline of study.

Your argument for this paper should move beyond a simple assessment of "X technology is good," or "COVID is bad for business." You will be making an argument to a learned community of peers in a specific field or discipline here, and an academic approach asks you to be careful, methodical, and measured in your conclusions. This will ask you to balance your summary of sources with careful quotation and will ask you to synthesize disparate approaches together.

### **Requirements**

**Length:** 1500-2000 words (about 6-8 pages, not counting title page or references)

**Format:** APA format, including a title page and abstract. Please see the Purdue OWL on APA format for examples. Your assignment must be uploaded as a Word doc (.doc or .docx) or PDF. Any other format will not be accepted and will receive a 0.

**Ingredients of a strong research paper:** A strong thesis statement and argument, specificity, a solid introduction and compelling conclusion, a balanced use of summary and synthesis, quotations, a good title, a bibliography that includes at least 6 sources, *at least two of which must be scholarly*.

### **Due Dates**

**Peer review:** Bring a copy of your draft to class the week of 3/29.

**Level 2 draft:** Your draft is due the same day as your peer review by 11:59 pm on Brightspace.

**Final draft:** Due April 12<sup>th</sup> on Brightspace by 11:59 pm. **Note: this is a week later than what the syllabus says.** Late papers will be penalized as per the syllabus. After your research papers are uploaded, I will grade them and give feedback on Brightspace. Your research paper reflection will be due at the same time.

**This project is worth 20% of your grade.**

### **Reflection**

It is important to reflect on your writing so you know what you did well, what you need to improve on, and how your writing process itself works. This is a form of metacognition—thinking about thinking—that helps you improve as a writer and as a learner. You'll also have to do self-evaluation in your careers in forms such as annual reviews, so it's good practice to think about how to write and reflect on your own work.

In 250-500 words, answer the following questions about the research paper:

- How did the research you performed in your literature review transfer to the research paper? What additional research did you have to do? Did your research change at all from the lit review to the final paper?
- What are you proud of in your research paper? If you had another week to work on the paper, what would you change?
- Describe your writing and revision process as you completed this assignment. What did you revise and why? How did writing this assignment compare to writing assignments in other college classes or in high school? What did you do differently? Why?
- How might this assignment benefit you outside of this class? Outside of school?

This assignment is worth 10 points and will be graded as a microassignment.

### **Rubric**

/5 Abstract: You have an abstract. Your abstract accurately reflects your current project

/15 Argument: Your argument is clearly expressed in each of your paragraphs. Extraneous or unrelated information is not included. You use topic sentences to focus each paragraph's content and argument.

/5 Audience awareness: You write for an audience of your peers. You explain any jargon.

/15 Analysis: You analyze any evidence that you present in your paper. Your analysis is clear and cogent.

/10 Conclusion: Your paper has a conclusion that skillfully wraps up your argument. Your conclusion pushes your claims beyond surface-level observations.

/5 Grammar, proofreading, and formatting: Your paper is proofread and is free of any grammatical errors that affect readability. Your paper follows proper APA formatting.

/10 Introduction: Your paper has an introduction that accurately introduces your topic. Your introduction starts with a hook and avoids generalities.

/5 Organization and transitions: Your paper makes sense. It is easy to follow your claims through your paper. You include transitions to guide your reader.

/10 Quotations and citations: You quote material from outside sources and cite those sources accurately. You do not rely solely on summarizing authors' claims.

/10 Synthesis: You synthesize various scholars' research together. You avoid relying too heavily on any one source and instead use a variety of sources to support your argument.

/5 Thesis statement: You have a thesis statement. Your thesis statement accurately reflects the arguments you make in your paper.

/5 Title: You have a compelling title that is accurate to your paper.

/100 Total