

ENGLISH 102: THE RESEARCH PAPER

The purpose of your research is to PERSUADE an audience to accept your claim; it is not simply a presentation of information or a grocery list of facts. You need to present the information in such a way that your readers understand and accept your point of view regarding your topic.

For your paper you will be asked to come up with an arguable question to pose in regards to your selected graphic novel. You can choose to ask any question you want and provide your audience with an answer. If you have trouble coming up with a question, here are some questions you might consider:

Should _____ (insert graphic novel selection) be considered appropriate for use in the college classroom (pick a type of classroom)?

Should _____ (insert graphic novel selection) be considered worthy of someone wanting to read it? For what purpose might someone want to read it? Does it have merit?

Should _____ (insert graphic novel selection) be considered or adopted as a worthy piece of literature based on its literary merit (you argue for it), universal themes, and/or longevity potential?

It is from your chosen question that you will answer to create your THESIS STATEMENT for your paper.

LENGTH: 8-10 typewritten pages of text, plus the Works Cited page

Please remember that quantity does not equal quality. I won't count words or pages; however, any research paper that is much shorter than six pages probably won't be adequately developed, and any one that is much longer than seven-eight pages usually indicates that the writer didn't narrow the topic sufficiently. I'm far more concerned that you argue your claim well than I am in the number of pages you write.

SOURCES: at least 8-10 resources from a variety of media

You'll need to consult books, periodicals, computer data bases, the Internet, and NewsBank (if appropriate to your topic); in addition, I'm sure that some of your topics can be argued using field research (interviews, observations, and/or surveys).

Five (5) of these sources must be different types.

FORMAT

The *MLA Handbook* presents samples to help you with the format. I'll also provide examples from previous English 1302 classes. The heading belongs in the upper left corner of the first page. If you prefer using a cover sheet, that's fine, too, as long as the same information is presented there. This piece of writing is long enough to deserve a title.

General format of the paper should be as follows (sections):

1. Introduction

- Thesis at the end

2. **Background** – use this provide definition and material necessary for audience to understand your argument

3. **Your Argument** – using resources, make your case to support your thesis.

4. **Your Counter-Argument** – anticipates possible alternatives and objections to your argument and then challenges them to reinforce your thesis and argument

5. **Conclusion** – wrap up your paper

6. **Works Cited page**

HELPFUL HINTS

Document paraphrases as well as direct quotes in your essay. You may feel as though the whole paper is a series of parentheses, but that is the nature of this kind of assignment. Remember that citing a source in the paper but not listing it in the Works Cited page is an example of plagiarism. An excellent way to check your work before submitting the finished copy is to check off each citation on the Works Cited page as you read it in the essay. When you've finished, make sure that every entry on the Works Cited page has a check mark beside it. If not, you need to find out where the citation is missing. As you're doing the checking, make sure the page numbers in the essay correspond to those listed in Works Cited.

If all the information in one paragraph in your essay comes from the same page of the same source, you may save the citation until the end of the paragraph. If you start a new paragraph, you must insert a citation at the end of one paragraph and then within the next paragraph.

Everything is double-spaced--the essay and the Works Cited.

When you write about another piece of writing, use the present tense: "The author *suggests* that plastics are a continuing threat to the environment."

We'll spend class time editing your work and refining your documentation skills. To benefit from this allocation of time, you will need to come to class with the required work and/or drafts of your research paper. Allow enough time to type your essay carefully and even more time to proofread carefully!!

SUBMISSION DATES:

Your completed research paper (8-10 pages + Works Cited page) will be due:

1. **In-Class Peer Review** will be conducted on **Wednesday, Apr. 10 for ENGL 102.17 and Thursday, Apr. 11 for ENGL 102.08**
2. **Electronically** no later than 11:59 PM you will turn in your **Research Paper Rough Draft to Moodle on Sunday, Apr. 21**
3. **Electronically** no later than 11:59 PM you will turn in your **Research Paper Final Draft to Moodle on Sunday, Apr. 28**

I WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LATE SUBMISSIONS

EVALUATION OF PAPER:

Be aware that completion and participation in ALL parts of the process factor into the final grade:

Peer Review 50 PTS (25%)

Rough Draft 50 PTS (25%)

Final Draft 100 PTS (50%)

Total 200 PTS