

Florida SouthWestern State College
General Education Assessment
CREATIVE Competency: Research
Exemplar Assignment
Submission from Composition I

Overview

The purpose of this research assignment is to synthesize the information you gained from your research with your own ideas to produce an informative research paper that makes an argument.

Process

For the academic research essay in this class, you will write a 1500-2000 word (5-6 page) essay that argues a position on a topic of your choice **that has been approved by your professor**. Your essay will include a **clear, underlined thesis** statement that raises a question for your reader (your research question). Your argument will be supported by credible evidence (your research) by referencing your sources using summary, paraphrase, and/or direct quotations. The research essay should be formatted in MLA style, to include in-text citations and a Works Cited page. You should have at least one in-text citation for each source listed on your Works Cited page.

Tip: Review Chapters discussing research in *Everyone's An Author*.

Refer to the rubric below the assignment to be sure that you are meeting the expectations of the assignment.

A research essay that “Achieves Excellence” will be distinguished in the following criteria:

- The essay has a solid purpose and a clear, UNDERLINED thesis statement
- The essay structure is sound
- The essay is unified and coherent.
- The essay is fully developed, and the thesis is supported by referencing the 5 sources (2 peer reviewed academic journal articles and 3 additional sources of his/her choice) included on the Works Cited page. **There is one in-text citation for each source in either a paraphrase, summary, or direct quote.** The parenthetical citations are properly documented in MLA style.
- The essay adheres to MLA guidelines for formatting, in-text citations, and the Works Cited page.
- The essay is free of grammar, spelling, or sentence structure errors.
- The writer demonstrates understanding of Audience by using language appropriate for academic writing and using a 3rd person, objective point of view (no 1st or 2nd person pronouns).

- The Works Cited Page includes 5 sources (2 peer reviewed academic journal articles and 3 additional sources of his/her choice) in MLA style.
- The essay is 1500-2000 words (5-6 pages). **The Works Cited page is NOT included in the word count.**

Research Paper Rubric:

Criteria	Ratings	Pts
FOCUS: There is a solid purpose for the essay. The thesis statement or central idea of the essay is narrowed and specific so that the topic can be thoroughly developed in the essay. The introductory paragraph introduces the reader to the topic and culminates in a clear, underlined thesis that poses an argument. The title is provocative and clever and reflects the subject, purpose, or focus of the essay.	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	20
UNITY: The focus is maintained throughout the entire essay. The examples and ideas developed in the essay relate directly to the thesis so that the essay does not stray from the central idea. The conclusion summarizes or reflects the essence of the thesis without simply restating it.	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	20
COHERENCE: the material is presented in a logical order. Sentences are clear and concise. There is variation in sentence structure. The essay flows from one idea to the next though the use of strong topic sentences, transitions between paragraphs and ideas, and repetition of key ideas, phrases, or images throughout the entire essay.	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	20
DEVELOPMENT: The writer makes use of several different writing strategies to achieve his/her purpose. The body of the essay - through the use of research of at least 5 sources including at least two articles obtained through the FSW library databases – fully and completely develops the thesis or central idea of the essay and relates to the AUDIENCE and PURPOSE. The thesis is supported by referencing the 5 sources included on the Works Cited page. There is one in-text citation for each source in either a paraphrase, summary, or direct quote.	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	20
MECHANICS and PRESENTATION: The essay meets the assignment requirements. The essay displays evidence of the writing/revision process, which includes proofreading for grammatical/mechanical/spelling mistakes. Also, the essay is written in MLA style using appropriate font, margins, spacing, header, and heading as demonstrated in the example in the text book, and meets the specified page requirement (1500-2000 words/5-6 pages). In-text citations are properly documented in MLA style so as to avoid plagiarism.	<i>This area will be used by the assessor to leave comments related to this criterion.</i>	20
Total Points: 100		