

Ashland English 102 Essay #4

Synthesis

Your Writing Task

In your future courses, you will rarely be given a tightly-limited topic assignment. You will need the basic skills of finding and limiting a topic, formulating a thesis, and researching material to support your thesis. This research/synthesis paper asks you to demonstrate those skills.

For this paper you will **select and narrow a topic, find research material, and write a six-page research paper with appropriate MLA documentation of your outside resources.**

Mechanical Details

Length: Minimum 2000 words not counting title, your name, etc. That's about a six-page paper. There is no maximum, but try to keep it under 3000. Papers significantly under the minimum (90% or less) will not receive the best possible grade. The Works Cited page does not count as part of the word count.

Outside sources: The essay will have MLA in-text citations and an MLA Works Cited page which cites at least four outside sources.

Format: Standard MLA format. (12-point Times Roman type, double-spaced, 1" margin all around, MLA header.)

Submitting the paper:

- The English Department wants electronic copies of all your essays this semester, so please upload the final product to the drop box in Blackboard. Some students (especially those who use Google Docs) have trouble figuring out how to do this, so ask if you are uncertain how to proceed!
- If you have any trouble getting the Blackboard upload to work, simply print a copy and bring it to class.

Due Dates

1. **Research paper proposal:** Friday, March 20, 2020
2. **Annotated bibliography:** Monday, March 30, 2020
3. **Thesis memo:** Friday, April 3, 2020
4. **Peer editing:** Friday, April 17, 2020
5. **Final copy:** Monday, April 20, 2020

Items 1 through 3 are worth 25 points each. The essay is worth 150 points. MLA citation format and Works Cited page will count for an additional 25 points.