Academic Writing   
Fall 2021

Final Paper: **Due Monday December 13, 2021 23:59**

1. Final Paper Requirements:

* Your topic must be 1 of the topics that is provided
* Your paper must be 4 paragraphs long
* Introduction (1 paragraph)
* Body (2 paragraphs)
* Conclusion (1 paragraph)
* Your paper must be a Word document (.doc or .docx)
* You must use MLA Format (page format, in-text citations, and Works Cited Page)
* You must include a Work’s Cited Page
* Minimum 2 Sources – Academic Sources (not random websites)
* I need to see at least one use of paraphrase (including citation) in your paper
* I need to see at least one use of direct quote (including citation) in your paper
* Please use your best English
* It must be your own original work
* Avoid plagiarism, complete this assignment alone,
* You may not use a paper from a previous semester.

2. Be Careful, the following things are NOT allowed:

* Writing about your country
  + While it is great to be patriotic about one’s country, it is not *academically responsible* to brag about a country or their progress or the direction they are heading especially when it has very little or nothing to do with the topic. This is **never done** in Academic Writing. It distracts the reader’s attention from what it is you are trying to discuss and prove in your paper. It is spiral reasoning. A scholar has a limited amount of space, so it is best to express only the most important details with evidence.
  + Use **evidence** which is typically found in the research. Use information from scholars, experts, journals, even companies or organizations, but do not simply say what China does or what America does.
* Unsubstantiated claims/opinions without evidence.
  + You should have strong and direct opinions when you are writing. You also must provide support for what you are saying. You should not write an opinion in your paper like this: “I think \_\_\_\_ because it would be nice to see \_\_\_\_”. Rather, you should provide powerful and effective evidence for your opinions. This makes a much stronger paper.
    - Example:
      * NOT GOOD.   
        “I think dogs are the best animals because they are cute.”
      * VERY GOOD.

“Dogs are a superior pet, because they have been mankind’s primary companion for 6,000 years (Frantz et al. 449).”

* Indirect Answers to the topic question
  + Avoid “On the one hand….on the other hand” statements and paragraphs. Avoid contradicting yourself in your writing. Instead, provide more evidence for your paper with stronger ideas which creates a stronger argument.
  + You only have 2 paragraphs in your body to prove your point. Do not waste time with indirect writing. The way this can be done is by having two strong evidences to support your thesis statement, then directly write your 2-paragraph body.
* Going off topic
  + If the topic is about alternatives to oil, do not write a paper all about the benefits of oil or how oil has such a long history. This is off the topic! If you go off topic, you will not be able to receive a high grade. So always ask yourself “Am I staying on topic?”
* Be Decisive.
  + Do not waste a paragraph on your writing, trying to show another side of the argument. Choose one side of the argument and argue for it. Prove why it is correct.

3. What Is Your Teacher Looking For?

* Proper Format - MLA
* Paragraph Structure (TS, SS, CS)
* Essay Structure (Introduction, Body 2x, Conclusion)
  + Introduction: Hook, Background, and Thesis Statement
  + Body: Good paragraphs that effectively support your thesis statement
  + Conclusion: Restate the Thesis Statement (also you could point to the future, make a suggestion, etc).
* Works Cited Page
  + Minimum of 2 sources. (Academic Sources)
  + Page formatted correctly
  + These sources **MUST** be used **CORRECTLY** in paraphrase and direct quote. (Follow the proper format for in-text citations).
* A well written paper will answer the topic question directly, and effectively.
* Submit your paper on Canvas on time

4. Suggestions for preparing your paper:

* Think about the topic which interests you the most.
* Take some time looking through many sources, not just finding 2 sources quickly.
* Research your topic, and do not simply just give an opinion. Develop your opinion through research.
* Remember to develop a strong Thesis Statement. A strong Thesis Statement will include both your main idea and will introduce the key points/reasons. Put it in your introduction.
* Try Brainstorming. Organize your brainstorm into related topics and outline them.
* Take notes on your topic (everything that gives you an idea, write down where you got this idea, and what the idea was, this way you can reference it in your paper).
* After you finish your research, brainstorm your ideas again and write some fresh ideas.
* EDIT your work.
  + Go through your paper and do your best to correct any of the common errors we discussed in class:
    - Pronoun errors (do not use “I”, “me”, “my country”)
    - Spelling Errors
    - Capitalization Errors
    - Punctuation Errors
    - Spacing Errors
    - Contractions (don’t, can’t, won’t)
    - Verbal Form (Remember it is often best to write in present tense, but just be aware of the tense and verb forms you are using).
    - Qualifying Language: Use solid, academic language. Make sure you are not using language that is misleading or untrue. (examples: “as we all know”, “in a word”)