

English 104 Literary Research Paper

A research paper is one of the requirements for successful completion of this course.

Think of this paper as an expanded version of the other essays you will write in this course. In addition to being longer, this paper also requires you to use as evidence not only facts from the literary text but also information gathered from other sources. Because you are writing a paper on a literary topic, your sources will be reviews, literary criticism, and /or essays written by expert authors. As always, it is important that you write from credible, reliable, and intellectually appropriate sources.

Please use the following as guideline for the work.

1. The paper will be 2000-2500 words.
2. You will use **at least two** primary sources and **at least six** secondary sources. For our purposes, primary sources include the actual story, poem, or play under discussion while the secondary sources are articles written about those texts.
3. All sources must be correctly documented in MLA style. Refer to your Hacker guide or the Purdue Online Writing Lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>) for reference to this.
4. Your paper will include both in-text (or parenthetical) citations and a Works Cited page. This will not be included in your word count. All works you consult, including the bibliographical information for the story, poem, or play must be included. For help, please view:

In-text citations: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK2W7QZN7RQ>

(You can stop listening at 4:00).

Works Cited Page: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF3r4T_LkQM&feature=relmfu

5. You have many options for this paper. Choose something that you find interesting and want to know more about.

Possible approaches (you may choose your own, but clear the topic with your instructor before beginning):

The best topics are those which originate in your own reading. Below are some possible approaches to the research paper assignment. You may use any fiction, poetry, or plays you have read in this class to complete the assignment. If you wish to write about a different topic, please consult with your instructor for approval before beginning to make sure you are fulfilling the requirements.

Analyze:

1. A work based on an outside philosophical perspective

(Ex. How would Sigmund Freud or Carl Jung read "A Rose for Emily?")

2. A literary response to a particular work

(Ex. Compare Charlotte Bonte's *Jane Eyre* with Jean Rhys' *Wide Sargasso Sea* or Daniel Stern's "Twice Told Tales: Stories" (1989); "Twice Upon a Time" (1992); or "One Day's Perfect Weather: More Twice Told Tales" (1999) in which he creates his own stories out of those originally written by Hemingway and Frost).

3. Imagery occurring in more than one work

(Ex. How is prison imagery used in certain plays, poems, or novels: "The Yellow Wallpaper," *Trifles*, nature imagery in Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods" and Hemingway's "Hills Like White Elephants," Dickinson's "Some Keep the Sabbath," biblical imagery in Dickinson, Frost, and Faulkner).

4. A text from a political perspective

(Ex. How would a Marxist read Susan Glaspell's "Trifles"? How would a feminist read Chopin's "The Story of an Hour"?)

4. A film or stage version and compare it to the original literary work

(Ex. Margaret Edson's *Wit* and the film version with Emma Thompson. What editorial changes were made? How do they affect the reader or viewer's experience of the work?)

7. The connection between art and literature

(Ex. Ezra Pound and Imagism; W.H. Auden's "Musee de Beau Arts" and Pieter Brugel's "The Fall of Icarus")

8. The social, political, or economic context in which an author's work was written — how does the context influence the work?

(Ex. The medical profession in *Wit* and “The Yellow Wallpaper,” marriage in “The Yellow Wallpaper” and “The Story of an Hour,” Billy Collins’ protest of death as “the” subject for poetry in “On Turning Ten,” and Emily Dickinson’s “Flood Subject,” The Old South in Faulkner’s “A Rose for Emily” and “Barn Burning,” Robert Browning’s critique of the aristocracy, etc.)

Adapted from the Purdue OWL, located at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/618/02/>