

RESEARCHED ESSAY ENGLISH 185

PROPOSAL DUE	NOVEMBER 5
ANNOTATED SOURCES	NOVEMBER 12
ESSAY DRAFT DUE	NOVEMBER 19 (PEER REVIEW)
ESSAY DUE	NOVEMBER 21

Outcomes:

- Analyze, evaluate, document, and draw inferences from academic sources
- Use argumentative strategies to engage and convince your audience
- Identify, select and analyze research methods, research questions, and evidence for a strong rhetorical situation
- Integrate others' ideas with your own
- Use grammatical, stylistic, and mechanical formats and conventions for an effective essay
- Produce a well-reasoned, warranted research essay

Assignment:

1. PROPOSAL

Email me the following by November 5:

- What research question are you focusing on for this essay?
- What do you think you will gain from researching this topic?
- What do you already know about the topic? In what areas will you focus your research? What are the main questions you hope to answer with your research and final paper?

2. ANNOTATED SOURCES

- 10 sources, alphabetized, formatted in *scrupulous* MLA
- Annotate at least three of the sources
- printed and stapled

3. RESEARCHED ESSAY, 6-8 PAGES TEXT (2,500 WORDS), DOUBLE-SPACED

Rely on the *Little Seagull* book to guide your writing and citing strategies.

Your researched essay is an opportunity to explore an issue of human rights – rights and freedoms that belong to people inherently – in conjunction with either *King Lear* or *Unflattering*. Choose something that fascinates or perplexes you and explore it in more detail.

Note that human rights are rooted in shared values such as dignity, fairness, and autonomy. Both of our literary texts this semester shared how these values are undermined or perpetuated by other people and institutions. *Lear* intersects with mental health, homelessness, the law's

violence, war trauma, discrimination based on birth status (illegitimacy), and other violations of people's dignity. *Unflattening* explores how institutions, in particular, "flatten" individuals' thinking, freedom of expression, and development.

Consider the literature and themes that we are discussing in English 185, and begin with a research question: for example, what does *Lear* suggest about the nature of mental illness and dignity? About the fraught nature of parents, children, siblings? How does Shakespeare use imagery about the difficulty of conveying truth in language? Trace a particular image or concept through *Unflattening* (flying, for example) and connect it to a human rights violation or protection.

Begin with a research question, gather feedback from your peers' perspectives on it, propose a thesis, then begin researching. You must choose five scholarly sources to integrate into an organized and convincing essay. Find your sources via the Oxford library. Review *Little Seagull* on choosing and integrating sources into your paper.

Start with a strong introduction (see class notes), and make sure your paragraphs each fully develop a main point or claim.

- Remember the **"So What?"** It's up to you to convince your audience that this matters.
- Vary your sources. **Thoroughly integrate your sources** as evidence to support your assertions. Beware of writing a single page that only cites one source.
- **Remember your audience.** Assume they have read *Lear* and *Unflattening*. What do your readers need to know about your topic? What do they need to know to understand what you are trying to say? How can you best convince them?
- **Include Counterevidence.**
- **In-text citations are crucial:** without them, I will not grade the paper.

Specifics:

- 6-8 pages of text, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, one-inch margins
- Followed by a Works Cited page, where you list the sources you cited in the paper
- 5 sources required: 3 peer-reviewed journal articles / 2 sources: book chapters
- The essay, parenthetical citations, and Works Cited page must adhere to MLA style
- Bring a printed draft of at least 5 pages to class on Nov. 19 for peer review
- Essays are due (printed and stapled) at the beginning of class on November 21

Consider the following:

- Am I integrating sources smoothly into the text? Do I limit quotations from scholarly sources? (source quotations should be about 10% of the total text)

- Am I citing everything that is from a source?
- Are all the sources I cite in the Works Cited?
- Am I backing claims with evidence? (Or logical fallacies?)
- Are my claims warranted?
- Do I include a naysayer?
- Is my prose strong (sentence variety, strong verbs, limited prepositional phrases)?
- Do I demonstrate why the essay matters?