

                                                 Assignment # 4 – Research Paper (5-7 full pages)

Proposal Due: November 10

First Draft Due: November 17

FINAL Draft Due: December 8

Bring a printed copy to class and upload a Word Doc copy to topic **and** composition courses’ Blackboard sites before the start of class (9:30am) on due dates.

For this assignment, students will select a research paper topic related to education and articulate a research question. Students will use library skills and resources to find a range of adequate, authoritative sources and complete a properly-annotated bibliography using these sources, in MLA citation formatting. Students will then compose a research paper, arguing a position, effectively employing description, analysis, and interpretation.

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|  | **Does your introduction establish your topic and narrow the focus to your thesis?** |
|  | **Does your paper take up a clear and arguable position?** Do you express this position in the form of a clearly stated thesis sentence? |
|  | **Do you provide adequate context and background information about your paper’s topic?** Is the context information presented based on well-researched and correctly-cited information from “authoritative” sources? |
|  | **Does your paper include thorough, accurate, and well-researched evidence to support your thesis? Do you provide “good reasons”?** (p. 169) **Do your arguments cite authoritative sources (scholarly articles, academic books, etc.)?** |
|  | **Does your paper offer a careful consideration of opposing points of view? Do you analyze your own and others’ assumptions and note sources of bias?** |
|  | **Does your paper’s conclusion summarize the work you presented?** Does your conclusion offer new insight on the subject? |
|  | **Is your paper’s structure well-organized and coherent?** (see models on pp. 177 – 178 for examples of ways to organize a paper) |
|  | **Did you cite all sources using correctly-formatted citations in MLA format and include a complete and correctly-formatted list of works cited?** |
|  | **Is your writing polished (few or no errors in grammar, punctuation, and word usage)?** Do you write in a “trustworthy tone”? (p. 170) |
|  | **Does it meet basic technical requirements?** (Was it submitted on time? Does it meet the length requirement? Is it 12-point, Times New Roman, double-spaced, standard margins, pages stapled together?) |