

Assignment: Prospectus

Due date: November 23
 Email me the prospectus
 Length: 1 page
 Value: 5% of final grade

Assignment: Final Paper

Due Date: 4:00, December 10 in Cockefair 106
 Length for undergraduate students: 10 to 15 pages (2500 to 3750 words)
 Length for graduate students: 15 to 20 pages (3750 to 5000 words)
 Value: 30% of final grade

FINAL PAPER

Turn in your annotated bibliography, your rough draft, and your peer-editing worksheet with this assignment.

The aim of this assignment is for you to participate in the critical conversation that you first documented with your annotated bibliography. Now that you have a sense of the critical issues in which scholars have engaged themselves concerning your topic, you can write a paper that addresses those issues more fully and makes an original contribution to the field. If you are an undergraduate student, your final paper must cite at least 10 secondary, scholarly sources. Graduate students must cite at least 15 secondary, scholarly sources.

Your paper should present a persuasive argument with a clearly stated thesis. Your paper must adhere to MLA style in documenting its sources. You may organize your paper however you wish, but I strongly suggest you follow this format, which is relatively standard for academic essays:

- Begin with a paragraph that introduces your topic, explains its importance, and states your thesis.
- Next, a concise survey of what scholars have said so far concerning this topic. (Here you will draw upon the work you did in your annotated bibliography as well as the research you have completed since then.)
- Next, a more detailed overview of what you plan to say, explaining why it is needed and laying out the different parts of your argument.
- Next, the bulk of the argument behind your thesis, in which you present your different lines of reasoning, supported by textual evidence. This will be the largest part of your paper. You may find it necessary here to quote (*sparingly*) from what other scholars have had to say about your topic, but this is not required. How is what you have to say different than what other scholars have had to say? How are you building upon what other scholars have had to say?
- Finally, provide a conclusion in which you restate your thesis, argue for the importance or originality of what you have said, and point to productive directions in which future work on the subject should proceed.

I encourage you to make use of my office hours (or make an appointment to meet) to discuss this assignment.

PROSPECTUS

Email me your prospectus by midnight on November 23. Your prospectus is a statement describing the argument you plan to make in your final paper. It does not have to be written in excessively formal language, but it should be very clear and specific about your thesis. Begin your prospectus with a sentence that reads “The thesis I plan to argue is...” Following your thesis statement you will describe step-by-step, briefly, the argument you will make in support of that thesis, referring to (but not quoting) which particular passages from the text you will use. Parenthetical page references will suffice.

Academic Dishonesty: Do not represent someone else's work as your own. Students are expected to be familiar with the code of student conduct printed in the UMKC General Catalog and available on the UMKC website. In this course, any act of dishonesty on an assignment automatically earns a student a grade of 0 (zero) for that assignment as well as referral to the appropriate UMKC office.

Format: Be sure to review the section of the syllabus entitled “Format for Written Assignments.”