

RESEARCH PAPER (20% of Final Grade)

Deadlines:

Annotated Sources: April 17th (On Blackboard)

Draft #1: May 4th (10am Via Email)

Final Draft: May 18th (in Final Portfolio)

As the culminating writing assignment of the semester, the research paper is your chance to use all you have learned about interpreting and analyzing fiction, using outside sources, structuring an essay, and citing properly in MLA format. The research paper builds on the work you've done in the midterm paper, response essays, journals, and in-class writing.

In your journals and in-class writing you've practiced interpreting quotes, close reading, sentence structure, and analysis. In your response essays you've looked at specific elements of a story and posed an interpretation of those elements. Finally, in your midterm paper, you practiced interpreting a story as a whole and using research to support your thesis.

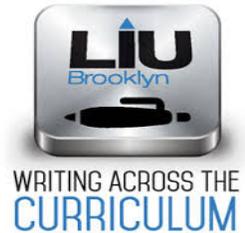
For the research paper, like the midterm paper, you will select *ONE piece of fiction* to write about from the readings we've discussed this semester. **In 6-8 pages, using research (at least 5 outside sources) and your own close reading skills, you will perform a specific, unique interpretation of this piece of fiction.** You should be attempting to answer a question about the meaning of the story. For example: What is the author's purpose in writing this story? Why did he/she write it in this *style*, using these *techniques*? What is the author trying to say about this subject matter? What is the *message* of the story?

In this paper you should be analyzing/interpreting the LANGUAGE and LITERARY techniques of the story, not simply the plot. Keep in mind Atwood's emphasis on HOW & WHY as opposed to WHAT.

Some of the things I will be looking for in these papers:

Analysis (as opposed to summary)

Interpretation (as opposed to opinion)



Close Reading of quotes

Framing of quotes

Standard Paper **Structure** (intro, thesis statement, topic sentences, body paragraphs, conclusion)

MLA format and **Citation**

This assignment will be broken into stages:

1) Source Annotations (DUE APRIL 17th)

You will submit 2 paragraphs explaining what story you've chosen, why, and your preliminary interpretation of the story (i.e. a working thesis statement). In addition, you will submit at least THREE sources you plan to use (citations in MLA format) with **Annotations**:

Each Source citation should be followed by a few sentences about the source (these are the annotations). In these annotations, you need to do the following things:

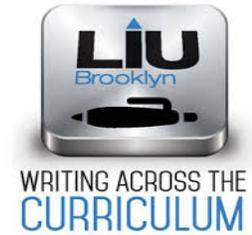
1. Summarize the source: What is it about? What argument or statements does it provide you with?
2. Determine the credibility of the source. What makes it trustworthy, authoritative, and relevant? (Remember the "CRAP" test)
3. State how you plan to use this source in your paper. How will it help you prove your thesis? What role will it play in your interpretation?

2) Conferences (April 18th & 20th)

Each of you will meet with me to discuss your 2 paragraphs with annotated sources. These conferences are required to receive approval for your chosen story, sources, and working thesis. It's also a chance to catch any issues before you start writing the paper.

3) First Draft (DUE MAY 4th)

A complete first draft submitted to me. We will workshop your research papers in class on May 9th, for which you will need to bring in copies of the complete paper.



4) Final Draft (DUE MAY 18th)

The final draft of your research paper will be included in your final portfolio and submitted the last day of class (NO EXTENSIONS). While we will have plenty of time to work on revisions in the last weeks of class (including during class-time), after the 18th there will be no further opportunities to revise your writing from the semester.

FORMAT (follows MLA guidelines):

6-8 typed, double-spaced pages, submitted in a WORD Document

12-point Times New Roman Font

Standard 1-Inch Margins

Your name, instructor's name, the class (English 14), & the date should appear in the upper left-hand corner of the first page

Your last name & Page Numbers should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page

Works Cited page and In-Text Citations in MLA format are required: PLAGIARISM OF ANY KIND WILL RESULT IN FAILING THE ASSIGNMENT