

English 103  
Summer 2017  
Instructor: D. Bargen

**Research Paper Final Instructions**  
**Final Essay Due August 16, 2017**  
**1000 Words**

***General Instructions Summary***

The final paper is worth 30% of your grade for term work. Remember that research is a process in which you repeatedly collect, assess, and analyze data, refining and focussing your questions as you go along. While comparison may enter into your analysis, you are expected to go far beyond a simple comparison of one text to another. **Develop a real argument on the basis of your primary text.**

**You must use at least one secondary source (critical article or book) to help you analyze your topic** and more are encouraged. These sources must comment directly on your topic in your chosen primary source, which must be one of the course texts: the film *Return of the King*, the novel *The Hobbit*, the poem *Beowulf*, or the novella *Oroonoko*. All secondary materials must be scholarly books or peer-reviewed articles and must be from our library resources. (See earlier stages for the details of these requirements, which have not changed.)

***Stage 5--Final Paper (Essay 2)***

**30% of Grade for Term Work** 代写微信risepaper

(See the Class Policies for grading and extension procedures.)

In this stage, you should scrutinize absolutely everything for possible revision. Consider every detail of your essay for ways to improve, including especially your content as discussed below, your thesis statement, and the structure of your argument. I expect very thorough revision. Revise, revise, revise until it is as near to perfect as you can get it.

Submit the exact copy of your Stage 4 Formal Draft that I graded, with my marks on it, together with your Stage 5 Final Paper, to demonstrate that your revisions have been thorough. Stage 5 papers where only minor revisions, such as proofreading and editorial changes, to Stage 4 have been made will probably fail, no matter how good the grade was on Stage 4, since minor revisions do not fulfil the requirements of the assignment.

Consider whether your secondary critical sources are as useful to you as they could be. Most of these critical texts must deal in a significant way with your primary text. It is not too late to augment this aspect of your research.

**Non-Formulaic Thesis Statement**

For the final essay, the thesis statement should be non-formulaic: remove the words “In this essay I will argue that . . . by . . .” I asked you to use this formula in the outlining and thesis statement assignment in order to teach you to think about the argument of your essay and reduce it to a concise statement. You must, of course, always think about reducing your argument to a concise statement in writing an academic paper, and the formula can be a helpful tool in doing that, but you also need to learn how to write thesis statements that are not formulaic.

One way to do this is simply to remove the words of the formula and then construct a grammatically correct sentence out of what remains, ensuring that it is logically connected to the

sentences of the introductory paragraph. Make certain there is also a proper transition from the preceding sentences of your introduction to the thesis statement. Hacker has various examples of non-formulaic thesis statements that you may use as models: some of these are in the sample essays in the text as well as in online sample essays on her web-site.

But remember that even though you will not be using the formula, your essay must still contain a clear thesis statement that is easily identifiable as such. If I find I cannot identify your thesis statement, that will have a negative impact on your grade. Tip: If a thesis statement is not obvious to me, then I usually look for it at the end of the introductory paragraph, to see if this can in some way be construed as a thesis statement.

### Word Count

This paper is to be almost exactly 1000 words, with a maximum variation of 100 words: your essay cannot be shorter than 900 words nor longer than 1100. To help me be accurate in assessing how many words your essay comprises, please observe the following: Use 12-point Times New Roman font and the exact MLA margin, spacing, indenting, and formatting requirements. Also include a word count at the end of the body of your essay, before the Works Cited page; the Works Cited should not be included in the word count.

### Marking Focus

The feedback grid below is intended to alert you to the kinds of things I will be evaluating in grading your final paper. Students tend naturally to worry about the Language and Mechanics categories, and you should refine these aspects to the best of your ability as part of your thorough revisions, but I would urge you to pay very close attention to the Content category. The items under Organization and Detail are also important, but, since these were the marking focus on your formal draft, hopefully they will come more easily by this stage. Students often do not realize how important the items listed under these three headings are. If these things are not well done, no amount of language and technical skill in writing can redeem the essay.

A secondary focus will be the material in Hacker on Sentence Style. A confusing, difficult, or awkward writing style can make your content so obscure that it is essentially lost on the reader. Thus I do not want you to forfeit a good grade, if you deserve one for the hard work you are doing on content, by a poor writing style. Some of you should also pay attention to Hacker's section on Word Choice, if you have trouble choosing the best word to express your meaning. Be very sure to eliminate every instance of the following errors—comma splice, fused sentence, sentence fragment, or subject-verb agreement.

**Reminders:** First, you must have at least two works in your Works Cited including the primary text. The Works Cited should follow MLA style precisely; it should include only works actually cited in the body of the essay and must include all works cited. Second, the thesis statement should be non-formulaic. Third, staple your paper to the copy of your Stage 4 Formal Draft with my marks and comments on it before submitting it: I do not bring a stapler to class.

*The Feedback Grid:*

Strong	Good	OK	Weak	
				Process: invention, exploratory writing, multiple drafts, genuine revision, reflection

				Content: insights, thinking, depth, grasp of concepts, serious grappling with topic
				Detail: relevant and persuasive evidence or support, sufficient quotation, handling of sources
				Organization: guiding the reader with topic sentences, transitions, and focus (thesis); structure suited to content
				Language: syntax, wording, voice, diction appropriate to rhetorical situation, concision
				Mechanics: spelling (names & key terms), grammar, punctuation, usage, proofreading
				Total Impression: energy, originality, reading appeal (Note: not a sum of the other scores.)

### Note for Those with Incomplete Stages

If you have skipped any of the stages assigned in the preparation of this paper, you will be required to attach to the essay all the materials you prepared in composing it. This means I want to see all your notes, outlines, drafts, and any other materials produced in writing the paper so that I can evaluate your process. It includes resubmitting those stages of the assignment you did turn in. You will not receive credit, however, for any missed stages by submitting these materials now. If you fail to meet this requirement and then also fail to respond promptly to any subsequent request I make for these materials, the paper will incur a penalty which could be serious.

If you have completed all stages of the assignment, you should submit only the final paper and your graded Stage 4 Formal Draft on the due date. You should, however, keep the materials prepared for all these stages until the graded essays are returned, in case I should want to look at any of this again in the evaluation process. 代写微信ri sepaper