

Final In- Class Timed Essay (ENC-1101, Summer-A):

Research Narrative Essay

Assignment Description

For your ENC-1101 "final exam," you will write a timed, in-class essay on the last day of class (Wed. June 16).

The essay will be a *research narrative* – in other words, an essay that conveys the "story" of your research project to date.

Think of the research narrative as a kind of personal essay. Its overriding goal is to tell a compelling "story" of your research project from its inception, through the research that you have completed, to its current status.

To help you write your narrative, you may bring your research notes to class. You can and should also bring a list of all the research sources that you will be analyzing and evaluating in your narrative (primary as well as secondary).

You will have two hours to write the essay. (Bring paper and pens.)

Important Readings

Textbook Chapter 14 "Writing an Exploratory Essay or Annotated Bibliography" - pp. 469 – 484.

Student Essay "How Do Online Social Networks Affect Communication?" in the textbook pgs. 485 – 490.

Student essay, "Exploring Children's Needs" posted under "Student Writing" on the course web site.

Textbook Chapter 9 "Essay Examinations " - pp. 277 – 289.

Narrative Organization (Opening, Middle, and End)

Opening: Good narratives always start with a compelling presentation of a problem or issue that draws readers into the "story." The research narrative is no different.

Start by presenting the problem or issue driving your project. Make your presentation as engaging and reader-relevant as you can.

Describe your source of interest in and connection to the problem – in other words, what compelled you to conduct research about it. The opening also should state the goal of your project and present the key question or questions that you attempted to answer through your research.

Middle: The middle section of your narrative will review the research that you've done to date—in other words, analyze the value and relevance of your sources, and what you've

learned or haven't learned.

To be compelling, this part of the essay needs to be more than a report. It should be detailed and probing, and demonstrate that you are delving into the complexity of the research problem, synthesizing complex information and different points of view.

You will need to identify all of your sources that you discuss in your essay – primary as well as secondary (for example, people you interviewed, titles and authors of books, articles, etc.).

However, you do not need to include a "works cited" list or in-text page numbers in MLA style.

End: The ending of the narrative should provide closure for the reader—not necessarily a thesis or solution to the research problem, but an indication that you have moved the project forward in a meaningful way. Typically, the ending will evaluate how close you are to a final thesis, what you think the thesis will be, and what research remains to be done to support it.

If your inquiry is still inconclusive and you cannot project a thesis, your ending should include a review of questions that you still need to answer, along with plans for ongoing research.

Grading Criteria – Your instructor will be looking for:

- A compelling opening that involves readers in your project, and makes an effective case for its relevance and complexity.
- A credible number and variety of research sources (primary and secondary).
- A credible analysis and evaluation of your sources.
- Identification of all sources mention – in other words, titles and authors names, etc. (However, an MLA "works cited" list and in-text page numbers are not required.)
- A meaningful conclusion that projects a provisional thesis or questions that still need to be answered, and lays out needs and objectives for further research.
- Effective writing—clear and coherent.

Time limit: 2 hours.

Important note:

The will be no possibility of a makeup exam. Students who miss the exam will receive a zero, unless documentation of a serious medical emergency is provided before final grades are recorded.