

## RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

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### Assignment:

Write a research essay of approximately 1000 words, based on your **Research Proposal**. Support your points with documented sources and include a works cited page listing at least four sources, one of which is a book.

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### Writing Guidelines: (read these before you start writing - refer back to them as needed)

Your essay should consist of an **introductory paragraph** that includes a clear thesis statement, **five to ten body paragraphs** (depending on the length of each paragraph), and **a concluding paragraph**.

You must use your Research Proposal and create an outline to write the essay. You will, like all writers, end up doing more than one draft. Here are some suggestions for structuring the content of your essay by using an outline:

#### Introductory Paragraph

- Attention Getter: **Point out why your topic is significant. Provide some background or context for your topic.**
- Thesis statement: **This should be a statement (not a question!) that shows a clear position that your research will support.**

#### Section 1

- Each section may contain one or more paragraphs and should develop one main idea about your topic.

#### Section 2

#### Section 3

#### Section 4 (if needed)

#### Concluding Paragraph

- Summarize your findings
- End with a memorable statement

Take some time to read the sample essay in Unit 7.2. Note how the writer has integrated quotes, used summaries and paraphrasing, and has indicated sources for ideas and information.

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## Documenting Your Research Paper

The strength of your argument in your research paper depends largely on the quality of the resources you use to back up your points. These sources have to be clearly integrated into your paper and any sources that you refer to have to be listed on your Works Cited page (see below). The selections below from your text explain how to use outside sources in your own writing. Remember to cite all sources that contain new or original ideas. You don't have to cite material that is common knowledge such as the population of a country or a statement like, "Canadians spend a lot of money each year on gambling", because everyone knows this is true. However, if you were using a precise figure you would cite the reference. e.g. According to the Coalition Against Gambling, "Canadians spend \$???? a year on gambling of various types" (Coalition).

Clear documentation helps you avoid plagiarism (presenting the ideas of others as your own). Plagiarism is a very serious offence, and those who do it in college classes automatically fail the assignment and usually, the course.

Watch this slide show on [How to Avoid Plagiarism.](http://www.mountida.edu/filelibrary/plagiarism.ppt)  
<http://www.mountida.edu/filelibrary/plagiarism.ppt>

If you look under 'Browse' on the menu bar, you should be able to select full screen. You can then view the slide show by clicking through with your mouse button. To end at any time, right click. (Note: This slide show may not work on computers without PowerPoint.)

**Refer to the following sections in your text for guidelines on using and citing references:**

**Chapter 19 (Ch 12, 5<sup>th</sup> edition)**—Summarizing, Paraphrasing, and Quoting  
**Summarizing** - When writing a summary, you find the most important ideas in an article or other document and restate them in your own words in shortened form.

**Paraphrasing** - Paraphrasing is restating someone else's ideas in your own words—not necessarily shortened.

**Quoting** - Use quotes to back up your main points. Every quotation should be introduced and integrated into your essay to show the relationship between the quotation and your own ideas.

**Chapter 20 (Ch 13, 5<sup>th</sup> edition)**—Documenting Your Sources

In documenting your sources, there are two basic requirements.

First, all information taken from other sources must be identified in the body of your essay in a **parenthetical reference** (see below).

Second, a list of all the sources must be presented on a separate page at the end of the paper. This is called the **Works Cited page**.

**Parenthetical Citations – see your text for more information.**

The page number of each source and the author's name must be identified. If the author's name is used in the quote, then only the page number is placed in parentheses at the end of the quote, like this (96). Notice the period comes after the page number.

If the author's name is not mentioned and you are using one of his/her ideas, then list both the author's name and the page number at the end of the quote, like this (Smith 96).

**Works Cited List**

Follow the guidelines in the text according to the type of source you are using. For Internet sources, do the best you can to provide as much information as possible. Cite both the date the information was written and the date that you accessed it on the net. Page 304 (199, 5<sup>th</sup> edition) has a clear example of a short works cited page.

**Chapter 21 (Ch 14, 5<sup>th</sup> edition)**—Formatting a Research Paper

The easiest way to understand formatting is to look at the example on page 310. (220, 5<sup>th</sup> edition) You don't need a separate title page, but you do need a separate works cited page.

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## Research Paper Evaluation

Below is the Marking Scheme that will be used to grade your Research Paper; use it to check off your paper before submitting it.

<b>ENGLISH 092 MARKING SCHEME RESEARCH PAPER</b>
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**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTENT:

**Introduction:** (hook, thesis—a statement, not a question) /10

**Development of an argument:** (plus acknowledgement of opposing view) /10

**Evidence:** (stays on topic, supports the main points, 6-10 quotes) /10

**Conclusion:** (restate thesis, main points + conclude—no new info introduced) /10

**Works Cited:** (at least 4 sources of 3 types - books, web, articles) /10

### TECHNICAL:

**Documentation:** /10  
(Correct integration of quotations, sources + correct use of MLA format)

**Style:** /10  
(Sentence style, level of vocabulary, variation of sentences, word choice)

**Organization:** /10  
(Overall essay organization, paragraph organization)

**Mechanics:** (Spelling, punctuation, grammar) /15

**Transitions:** (Easy-to-follow flow from one point or sub-point to the next) /5

**GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL:** /100