

Academic Explorations: Research Project and Presentation¹

Assignment Overview

Throughout the course of the semester, you will develop and explore a research question connected to a historical, social, cultural, and/or political issue or event addressed in the Unit 1 Poetry Collection or the Unit 2 study of Alexie's *True Diary*. This research project will be broken down into the following assignments:

- **Research Proposal:** In this 1-2 page paper, you will discuss your research question, its significance, your existing knowledge on the topic, and the areas you need to learn more about in order to answer your research question.
- **Annotated Bibliography:** The annotated bibliography is a useful step in the research process, helping you to better understand your topic, narrow your focus, and develop your thesis. In this assignment, you will provide source information, summary, and analysis for 3 articles or books relating to your research question. At least 2 of these sources must be peer-reviewed articles from our Library's database.
- **Research Argument Essay:** This assignment is the culminating piece of your research project. In a 750-1000 word essay, you will develop an answer to the research question you set out to explore over the course of the semester. This answer should take the form of an argument (i.e.: your thesis) with supporting claims backed by compelling evidence (i.e.: your secondary sources) and a Works Cited page.
- **Presentation:** During Finals Week, you will deliver a 5-minute presentation on your research topic, key discoveries, and development as a college-level writer over the course of your ENGL 1005AB career.

There are **8 C/NC assignments** associated with this project (Research Proposal, Annotated Bibliography, Peer-Review Draft, Author's Note, Peer-Reponses, Project Preface, Final Paper, Presentation)

Objectives

This assignment will ask students to engage course learning outcomes related to writing process (SLO 3), rhetorical situation (SLO 1.a, 1.b, 2), source integration (SLO 4), writing conventions (SLO 5, 6), and demonstrate understanding of rhetorical topics connected to academic essay writing including research process, locating and evaluating sources, integrating research, and presenting scholarly projects.

Instructions and Timeline

This project will be completed as a guided process involving several drafting activities and peer working group sessions. Please see below for the schedule of assignments due. Peer-review drafts, reflection letters, and the final project must be submitted by **11:59 PM** on the date due in order to be marked as Complete.

¹ This assignment was developed for use in the First-Year Writing Program at California State University, Los Angeles and is aligned with the Transparency in Learning and Teaching (TILT) Framework. See First-Year Writing Program, Department of English, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/academic/english/composition-program> and Transparency in Learning and Teaching, Center for Effective Teaching and Learning, California State University, Los Angeles, <https://www.calstatela.edu/cetl/transparency-learning-and-teaching-tilt>.

- T 4/12 Review assignment guidelines for Academic Explorations and discuss scaffolding of assignments for research project.
- T 4/14 Complete Research Proposal drafting activities (writing exercise and writing studio).
- Week 12 Attend your scheduled instructor/student conference with a draft of your essay and answers to conference prep questions.
- T 4/19 Submit **Research Proposal** (C/NC) to Canvas assignments folder.
- R 4/21 Complete Annotated Bibliography drafting activities (writing studio).
- T 4/26 Submit **Annotated Bibliography** (C/NC) to Canvas assignments folder; complete Research Paper drafting activities (writing exercise and writing studio).
- R 4/28 Complete Research Paper drafting activities (writing studio).
- T 5/3 Post **Draft 1** (C/NC) of your Academic Explorations Research Paper and **Author's Note** (C/NC) to the peer-review discussion board; in-class peer-review writing studio.
- R 5/5 Read your assigned peers' drafts and post your **Peer Responses** (C/NC) to the peer-review discussion board; complete Research Paper drafting activities (writing studio).
- T 5/10 Complete Research Paper drafting activities (writing studio).
- R 5/12 Submit final **Academic Explorations Research Paper** (C/NC) and **Project Preface** (C/NC) to the Canvas assignments folders; begin preparing for presentation during finals week.
- Week 16 Deliver **Academic Explorations Presentations** (C/NC) during final exam time.

Final Submission Checklist

Before submitting your final Academic Explorations Research Paper, please review the following checklist to make sure your submission meets the minimum requirements. Projects missing any of these criteria will be marked as Incomplete:

- The final word count for your essay must be between 750-1000 words in length.
- Your essay must include a fully developed introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion, which engage conventions of academic research writing.
- Your final submission must include reference to at least 3 articles or books relating to your research question. At least 2 of these sources must be peer-reviewed articles from our Library's database.

- All references to outside sources should be incorporated, cited, and listed in a Works Cited page according to [MLA or APA guidelines](#).
- Your essay must be an original composition.
- Your project must demonstrate clear and meaningful engagement with the assignment, that is, it should respond to the prompt and show that you have put effort into your work.

Final Project Submission Instructions

Submit your final Academic Explorations Research Paper and Project Preface to the Canvas assignments folders by **11:59 PM on Thursday, May 12, 2022**.

- Go to our Canvas course home page.
- Click on the Assignments link in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.
- Open the “Academic Explorations Research Paper” assignment.
- Click Add Submission and upload your essay in a Word document.
- Click Save Changes to submit.
- Open the “AERP Project Preface” assignment and repeat the above steps to upload your Project Preface as a Word document.
- Attend our scheduled final exam to deliver your Academic Explorations Presentation.

Evaluation

Throughout the process of drafting your Academic Explorations Research Paper, you will receive detailed feedback with questions, comments, and recommendations for future drafts. Assignments that are submitted on time and that meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Complete**. Missing assignments and submissions that do not meet the stated minimum requirements will be marked as **Incomplete**. As per the course grading contract, ten or more Incomplete assignments will result in an NC for the course.