

Final Research Paper

Due: Friday, April 26 by 5pm, (via Sakai): **200 points**

Paper Requirements: 8-10 pages, (2500-3000 words)*, MLA format, Work Cited page in MLA format with 6-8 sources (at least 5 academic sources) on final page of document. *NOTE: Header, title, and Work Cited do not count towards word count.

Submission format: Via Sakai in Word format (.doc/.docx) or as a PDF (.PDF). All papers should have student's last name in the file name (FitzsimmonsClassification.doc) or lose 10% of final grade. No late papers will be accepted.

Latest Possible Extension Deadline: Thursday, May 2 by 11:55pm (must be approved by instructor in person, no later than April 25).

Final Paper instructions: For their final paper, students will write a research paper on the topic of the Golden Age of Children's Literature. Students will be required to incorporate a minimum of 6 sources into this paper: at least 5 of the sources must be academic in nature. Academic sources include the essays used in class, books, essays from academic collections or articles from peer-reviewed journals. Projects focused on popular culture or more recent adaptations of Golden Age works should consult closely with the instructor about appropriate sources. Internet websites may be used in addition to the 5 academic sources, but should not be the student's main mode of research.

For this final assignment, students should expand upon the topic they chose (and had approved) in their proposal and annotated bibliographies. A good paper will advance a clear, strong argument in which the student clearly chooses a side and attempts to persuade the audience that their reading/analysis is correct. Students will engage in original research and should enter into a conversation with those texts in order to reach new and original conclusions. The student's paper should have a clear structure with logical and clear organization. The student's paper should also be free of mechanical/spelling errors, should be properly formatted in MLA style, and must include an MLA work-cited page. Please see the grade rubric on the next page for a break-down of points.

Please remember: this paper is worth 200 points, or 20% of the final grade. Late papers can not be accepted!

Grade Rubric for Research Paper

Required Elements	Grade Criteria	Points earned
<p>Thesis/ Topic (30%) 60pts</p> <p>A/B =60-48 pt C =47-42pts D/E=41-0pts</p>	<p><u>A/B level:</u> student researches an original, complete and well-reasoned thesis, based on an appropriate topic. Student’s topic addresses ideas discussed in class, related to their own area of interest and of interest to the scholarly community at large. Thesis is detailed, interesting, clearly explained and thoroughly examined throughout the paper.</p> <p><u>C level:</u> student’s research is based on a basic premise, with little expansion on previously covered material. Thesis exists, but is bland, uncomplicated or redundant to the class discussion. Thesis closely mirrors other scholar’s arguments with little originality.</p> <p><u>D/E level:</u> Topic not appropriate or deviates significantly from proposal topic. Student does not explore an original topic, or simply rehashes class discussions, with no new content.</p>	
<p>Research: Quality, Extent, Originality (25%) 50 pts</p> <p>A/B=50-40 pts C= 39-35 pts D/E =34-0</p>	<p><u>A/B level:</u> student thoroughly engages in research, locating academic/appropriate texts from a variety of peer-reviewed sources. Student reads, responds to and engages with these academic texts in order to produce new ideas or engage scholarly concepts in a new way.</p> <p><u>C level:</u> Student meets necessary citation requirements, but sources are all similar or concentrated in one part of the student’s argument. Student includes quotes as an after-thought: does not engage in conversation with the texts. Quotes inserted into text without support, introductions or transitions. Student relies on non-academic sources.</p> <p><u>D/E level:</u> Academic texts chosen are inappropriate for the paper or missing all together. Student works from own knowledge only, does not read/engage with academic texts at all.</p>	
<p>Argument/ Organization (15%) 30</p> <p>A/B=30-24 pts C= 23-18 pts D/E =17-0</p>	<p><u>A/B level:</u> Student advances a clear argument. Student has a clear structure for the paper, which supports their argument. Structure follows a logical progression and engages in persuasive techniques to support student argument.</p> <p><u>C level:</u> Student advances an argument which is sometimes muddled by poor structure. Paragraphs are unfocused, no transitions between paragraphs, overall structure detracts from well-reasoned argument. Editing/revision would improve.</p> <p><u>D/E level:</u> Argument is missing: student has a “yes and no” thesis or does not take a clear stand. Organization of the essay detracts from readability, makes it difficult for the reader to follow the overall argument.</p>	
<p>Sources and citations (15%) 30</p> <p>A/B=30-24 pts C= 23-18 pts D/E =17-0</p>	<p><u>A/B level:</u> Student uses proper MLA in-text citations and work cited page. Student cites at least 5 academic sources, and uses those sources to add to their overall argument.</p> <p><u>C level:</u> Student attempts to use MLA in-text and work cited page, with minor errors. 6 sources are used, but minimum of 5 academic sources are not met. Sources are also not fully integrated into the essay, or not used persuasively to augment the argument.</p> <p><u>D/E level:</u> Fewer than 5 texts are cited. No academic sources are used. Student does not use MLA citation style, or attempts to use MLA with lots of errors.</p>	
<p>Mechanics (15%) 30</p> <p>A=30-27 pts B/C= 26-18 pts D/E =17-0</p>	<p><u>A level:</u> Paper is free of mechanical errors (spelling, grammar, typos). Paper is formatted in MLA style (heading, margins, font). Paper meets word count requirements (2500-3000 words).</p> <p><u>B/C level:</u> Paper is mostly free of mechanical errors (3 or fewer). Paper is formatted in MLA style. Paper meets word count requirements.</p> <p><u>D/E level:</u> Paper has more than a few mechanical errors. MLA formatting is incomplete or missing.</p> <p>Papers failing to meet the minimum of 2500 words will automatically receive an E grade.</p>	
200 pts	Total points	