

Documented Essay Assignment
Open Topic
ENWR105

What is a documented essay?

A documented essay starts just like all of your other essays. By that I mean that it starts with a question or idea that you want to explore because it has meaning for you, and it is something about which you already know something. Therefore, a good question for me would **not** be, "What is the most humane way to enact the death penalty?" I don't have any connection to this topic and I know nothing about it. Sure, I wouldn't mind knowing, but the way for me to get my question answered is to read. Writing a documented essay on something as broad and complicated as this would be really hard.

In all your essays you have striven to argue your main question or point by giving examples. To date, most of your examples have been drawn from the class text, or from your own experiences. For this essay you will expand your example pool by drawing on "external sources" to include not only people our class textbook, but the research and opinions that are available to us through newspapers, magazines, journals, books, the Internet, government documents, pamphlets, CD's, videotapes, appropriate websites (see handbook for details), etc.

What's the Difference Between A Traditional Research Paper and a Documented Essay?

I call this paper a documented essay instead of a "research paper" because I do not want to read reports. There are going to be times in college when you will be asked to write research papers that read like reports, but this is not one of those times. In other words, I do not want you to write a paper discussing all the reasons why marijuana should be legalized; why people should vote for candidate X; why guns should/should not be banned; why abortion should/should not be legal; and on and on. I want you to continue to be the smart, reflective, analyzing and questioning writers that you have grown into in the last essays you have written. Therefore this paper is going to be similar in approach and format to your previous papers – but it's going to be longer and you are going to draw on several sources.

Length: 5-7 pages

Documentation: Correct or you receive a zero.

Writing Style: Do not write a report-style; use the same kind of lively, intelligent, thoughtful, witty, reflective style you have been doing. A documented essay assignment is not an invitation to write in a style that you and I would both find boring..

References: A minimum of four sources is required. That means you need to have at least four different sources. One may be from our text (though you don't have to use any from our text); two must be from external sources. **At least three of your citations must be from non-internet sources.** Note: using the library's databases to find sources that were originally distributed through print is not the same as using a "internet" source. You may use as many articles that were originally printed as you would like.

Monday

Introduction to Unit 6

What is a documented essay?

In-Class Writing: What do I care about? What makes me angry? What puzzles me?

In-Class: Begin reading essay from textbook.

Hwk:

Finish reading [essay from the textbook]

Guided Writing 6:1 (one page, single spaced)

- Part 1: Choose any article in the book we have read and re-read it taking notes to prepare this homework. Write down the main point of the article, the arguments that are made to back up this point, and importantly, why this article might be useful to you.
- Part 2: write a paper proposal. In this paper proposal state your topic, your main question, your interest in the topic, your anticipated point, the kinds of examples and documentation you will use, and the steps you're going to take to get this project done.

Wednesday

Discussion of topics

Peer review of Guided Writing 6:1

In-Class Write a first draft of your paper. Yes, rough, but real. Write two pages of a real draft. I will collect it.

Hwk: Prepare to begin your research!

Read "The Research Paper" in *The Brief English Handbook*, pp.346-368.

Hwk: Identify sources for you to use in the library to find other sources. Use the handbook to guide you in selecting sources and finding data. You can begin your research in class, but you will finish it in the library.

Monday

Library Day: Meet in the lobby of Sprague Library

Hwk: Identify and read three to five sources on your topic. Make sure you really read these articles and take notes. Make sure you save all the bibliographic information so that you will not get into trouble when you begin your essay.

After completing your research, write a brief plan of what you are going to do with this (just a paragraph) so that I can look it over on Wednesday and see if you're going in a useful direction.

Wednesday

Workshop Day: Today, we will begin writing the mid-process drafts in class. Each one of you will have a very short conference with me so that I can see what you have done and guide you as you continue with your project

Hwk: 2nd Mid process of Essay 6. Insert quotes and works cited page

Monday

First Peer Review

Discussion of documentation

Wednesday:

TURN IN:

Stapled Together, and in this order:

Final Draft, double spaced

Mid Process Draft

Rough Draft

TWO peer review comments

extra notes and in class-writings

NOTE: NO LATE PAPERS!!

