

Essay #5 – Research Paper

For this assignment, you will compose a research paper of at least 1200 words using one of the options below. You must use Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* as your primary text, which you have been reading and completing journal entries for over the course of this semester. Additionally, you must incorporate information from *at least three* scholarly sources, two of which must be different *types* of sources.

Option 1: Take a position on (select one phrase) . . . the relationship of language and power in Atwood's text; whether Atwood's text serves as a tale of hopelessness or of hope; love and duty; Atwood's comments regarding gender.

Option 2: Analyze how effectively Atwood crafts her argument regarding (select at least one topic) . . . gender; religion; sex; family; work; hierarchies; humanity; war.

Option 3: Analyze and discuss the ways in which Atwood satirizes society, and take a position on whether her text is relevant to contemporary audiences.

Option 4: Alternately, you may select an aspect of the text which you would like to focus on, and you may speak with me regarding your focus. If you select this option, you are required to conference with me no later than 4:30pm on November 20th (today) to discuss ideas for approval of your topic. Failure to do so means you will need to choose from one of the other options.

Your paper must be written coherently, observing grammatical, mechanical, and stylistic conventions, including proper adherence to MLA formatting for internal citations as well as your works cited page. Headings and headers should be properly formatted, along with all other required layout requirements: 12 point Times New Roman font, double spacing, 1" margins.

This is a formal research paper; therefore, it should be written in third person with tone(s) and word choice appropriate for the task.

Summary may be included but should be minimum and used to strengthen examples and/or arguments being made. Quoted or paraphrased materials should be appropriately integrated and cited and not randomly dropped, without context or citation, into your paper.

It is strongly recommended, though not required, that you create a brainstorm and/or outline prior to beginning your first draft in order to ensure that your points are on topic and supporting your thesis statement.

Due dates and assignment types are noted on the back of this page. Pay close attention to due dates, and manage your time wisely.

Due Dates

November 23rd (over break): Position statements

- Position statement is due via email by 7pm. (participation grade)

November 30th: Conferences

- Individual conferences will be held about progress, sources, and format.

December 2nd: The rough draft must be at least 800 words with a clear beginning, middle, and end, and it must incorporate not only information from the primary text but from at least one additional source as well.

- Electronic rough draft due by 9am to *turnitin.com*. (essay grade; research rubric used)
- *Paper* rough draft due when you walk into class (essay grade; general rubric used)
- Peer revisions of electronic drafts using *turnitin.com* (participation grade)

December 4th: Peer feedback

- Groups swap papers for peer feedback.

December 7th: Polished draft is due.

- Submit the polished/final draft to *turnitin.com* by 7pm. (essay grade; both rubrics used)

You are fully aware of due dates in advance. *Technological issues are not valid excuses for not having your work completed and submitted on time.* Plan ahead, and print and submit assignments ahead of time to ensure they have a chance to get credit.

If you have questions, it is your responsibility to ask for assistance; however, questions which are emailed after 4:30pm the day before an assignment is due, or questions emailed the day an assignment is due will not be entertained with any haste on my part. You are provided with two days each week to work during your class period, and I am available those days as well as each morning if you need clarification or assistance. Manage your time wisely.