

Final Researched Literature Argument Paper-Rethinking Narrative Forms

Throughout the semester, we have discussed the many bridges between narrative form and content—especially as relates to issues of gender, race, and sexuality. We have explored issues of identity in multiple genres and the way it relates to history and memory. In particular, this paper should explore one of the major works that we read this semester. You should focus on ONE text by ONE author and create an argument about HOW and/or WHY the author represents the topic in a particular way. What is the author showing to his/her audience about this topic? How does the author represent the historical/social context about that topic? What does the author reveal about the relationship between society and identity? These are the key questions that you should be asking as you go to write this paper.

You will be expected to present a clear argument paper that integrates close reading from your author or text as well as at least eight SCHOLARLY (i.e. academic books or journal articles) sources. This paper is not a summary of what happens in your text nor is it a report on your research. You should make an argument about your text, and you should use your scholarly sources to support and add depth to your argument. Please, follow the format listed in the “Tips for Writing a Scholarly Argument Paper” section of the syllabus. You should also review the “Example Paper and Paragraph Structure” Handout as well as the example papers posted on Blackboard.

Papers should follow academic argument format. There should be a brief introduction to your topic, a clear thesis statement (no later than the end of the first paragraph), close reading/analysis of the language of a text, and a clear conclusion that does not simply restate the argument you’ve already made. You should briefly integrate at least four secondary sources either through direct quotation, paraphrase, or endnotes. You should also follow MLA in-text citation rules and include a works cited page.

Evaluation:

- ✓ Is there a clear argument, which is clearly stated through a thesis statement in the early pages of the paper?
- ✓ Does each paragraph have a central point, which is supported by specific evidence from primary and/or secondary sources?
- ✓ Is there a clear introduction to your thesis statement and the major points of the upcoming paper in the early pages of your paper?
- ✓ Does each paragraph’s central point go to supporting your overall argument and thesis statement for your paper?
- ✓ Is there a strong opening and closing?
- ✓ Is research from multiple sources integrated throughout the paper with proper MLA in-text citations for BOTH paraphrased and directly quoted sources?
- ✓ Is a Works Cited page included in MLA format?
- ✓ Is there proper MLA format for both in-text citations and the Works Cited page?
- ✓ Does the paper meet the minimum requirements of the assignment?
- ✓ Are proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and organization conventions observed?

Length: 8-10 pages, **excluding** Endnotes and Works Cited page, double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1” margins