

“Topics of Citation”: Portfolio III
Due: Wednesday, April 22nd, 2015

Having completed all of your preliminary research assignments, and having thought about your work in light of our goals as a class, you may officially begin your individual research endeavors in earnest. As you work, continue to look to the “Helpful Links” that I have provided for you on the wiki site, located on the “Citations Three” page.

Your portfolios (first drafts) will be due on Wednesday, April 22nd. These papers will all be unique, as each will bear the stamp of your own research design, individual goals, and personal style of execution. However, I ask that everyone adhere to the following guidelines:

- This *first draft* should be at least four pages in length, and follow MLA format (if you are feeling ambitious, keep in mind that your final essays will be six to eight pages in length).
- You may write more than eight pages on your final essays, but do not write more than ten. Please communicate with me regularly throughout the remainder of this process.
- Begin to explore your sources early and often, and work to engage them with authority!

Composition Rubric

Ideas - Choose a focused and manageable approach to your topic, with accurate and precise details, and give your ideas life through dynamic use of strong, active verbs. Use specific, concrete details to support your ideas throughout. Remember that highly conceptual language tends to imply a great deal, without delivering enough “punch.” Fully articulated ideas tend to appear more modest, yet offer far more “content” to readers. This is crucially important to keep in mind when crafting a thesis.

Organization - Choose an appropriate, and original lead, make good use of sequence and transitional words, and conclude your essay with a natural, and thoughtful ending.

Word Choice - In order to convey your purpose clearly, use expressive diction, and a compelling tone throughout your entire essay. Avoid lame, vague words, such as “like,” “so,” “very,” and “stuff.” Please remember that vague terms suggest (and often indicate) vague thoughts.

Sentence Fluency - Keep in mind that a powerful blend of well-crafted, creative sentences, results in a smooth, rhythmic flow of ideas, and a pleasant reading experience. Remember that commas allow your ideas to breathe.

Conventions - Adhere to grammar and usage rules consistently and correctly (I know this “sounds” strange, but read aloud as you compose your essay and proofread your work). Do not use second person (and this means YOU)!

Presentation - Make use of pleasing, easy to read font styles and sizes, featuring seamless, appropriate text features throughout.