

Research Paper Milestone #3: Preliminary Draft and Works Cited Page (with Annotations)

The next step for your research paper is to create **solid preliminary draft** with an annotated Works Cited Page.

The next research paper assignment is to create a preliminary draft of your essay that incorporates the basic sources in your discussion. This draft will be read and graded ‘holistically’ in four areas (✓+ ✓ ✓-) along with instructor comments:

I. Style and Grammar: Is your prose readable and are you writing in a ‘formal’ voice using an appropriate vocabulary and writing style? Are you using transitions *between* and *within* paragraphs to control your writing and discussion? (I will not ‘correct’ your grammar for this draft, but I will make suggestions about your writing.)

II. Argument and Essay Structure: Do you have at least 5 pages of argument using an *introduction*, evidence (several ‘body’ paragraphs) and a *conclusion*? Is there a real *thesis* that sets out a ‘controlling’ idea (and ideally takes a position) for the rest of your essay. Is the draft developing your ideas at the right length and scope? I realize this early draft may be 4 pages, not the 6 pages of the final version, but it should still be ‘on track’ as a real research paper. (For this version, I want to see an introduction, thesis and conclusion—even if it is short and tentative.) I expect that your ‘evidence’ paragraphs will grow and change in later drafts.

III. MLA Citations / Use of Sources: Do you use evidence and MLA citation style correctly? Are you using the ‘quote sandwich’ form to make claims, present evidence and then interpret that evidence? Are you controlling your argument by including evidence that presents more than one side of your argument effectively? Importantly, are you doing more than just ‘reporting’ on existing research or taking one side in a ‘pro’ or ‘con’ issue, but are instead *developing your own argument* that attempts to ‘synthesize’ or understand multiple points of view with some critical thinking? Do your sources contribute to full discussion of

your topic?

IV. Works Cited Page: Have you included the correct distribution and kind of sources for your kind of essay? Are all (or most) of your source annotated with a few sentences? Remember that you might add or subtract sources in this version as you make as you find (and discard) sources of evidence.

*****Annotations:** If you have already turned in a version of your Works Cited page with annotations, you may remove them in this version. If you have not turned in the Page One assignment with complete annotations, please include your annotations with this deliverable.

WHAT TO TURN IN:

Format: Typed, double-spaced; 4 - 6 pages of writing (1,000 – 1,500 words), plus Works Cited page(s) with annotations.

DUE DATE: WED. 11/23 (11:59 pm)

Please submit your paper as a DOCX file to our Submit page submit103.lagcconline.com

● **As a reminder, here are the available research paper guidelines and research requirements:**

***Research Paper Guidelines:**

- About 6 pages (1,500 – 1,750 words) – Excluding your Works Cited pages. (*Note: 8 pages or 2,000 words is the max. for this paper. You don't get extra points for writing an overlong paper!*)
- Use of (about) 9 sources on a Works Cited page using the MLA citation style including correct citations.

***Research Requirements**

Some of the topics above will require you to customize this list of required sources below. But

here is a guide to the requirements for the distribution of research sources for your paper. To be clear, you may have **more** than the recommended set of sources or change the type of source (with guidance / approval from your instructor). This list will serve as a 'baseline' for your research efforts.

[] At least 2 encyclopedia / dictionary articles located using the **Gale Virtual Reference Library** (or similar online databases found through the LaGuardia Library's website).

[] At least 2 **journalistic articles** from 'reputable' publications (newspapers or magazines): you can use **Nexis Uni** to find these type of sources.

[] At least 2 scholarly/critical essays or psychological studies that discuss your topic. Use EBSCOhost Academic Search Complete or JSTOR to find these types of sources.

([] A chapter of an e-book / book. For more ambitious A-level papers. We'll discuss this requirement soon.)

□ **2 'miscellaneous' sources:** These sources can be a mix of the above types (such as additional scholarly articles, book / film reviews and/or journalistic articles. They might also be additional photos (or film clips) – from reputable sources. **IF YOU CHOOSE TO WRITE ON A MOVIE, THE FILM (OR FILM CLIPS) WILL BE INCLUDED IN THIS CATEGORY.**

Note: You might find that you have more than 9 sources – for example, you might find additional psychological studies with opposing viewpoints that would contribute to the discussion of your topic. **You will not need to discuss or cite all of your research in your paper.** (You should list all the sources that contributed to your research – even if they are not cited in your writing. This allows you to show that you did some thorough research.)

Hint: Try to limit your miscellaneous sources to 'responsible' sources from our Library databases or print sources. **Do not use Wikipedia or 'random' Google web pages.** *That will not lead to college-level research. Use 'responsible' online encyclopedia articles instead – we will look at some options here, which are available through the Library's website at:*

Use our Research Speed Dial -->

eng103.lagcconline.com --> **Research Speed Dial (on left menu)**

Milestone #3 – Research Paper Preliminary Draft – Feedback

Area	A	B	C	D	NOT YET PASSING (F)
Grammar and Style (Level of Writing / Discussion)	Excellent -- Solid writing and very few major grammar errors	Good -- Solid writing and a few major grammar errors	Acceptable -- Mostly readable -- some major and minor errors	Fair -- Many stylistic errors but basically readable	Poor – Too many stylistic errors prevent basic readability
Argument / Development / Flow	Excellent -- A clearly argued thesis with different points of view recognized (counterargument)	Good -- A clearly argued thesis with multiple sources / may be a few confusing passages	Acceptable -- There is a thesis and you do use some sources to back up what you say -- may not be clear control of sources or any sense of multiple viewpoints	Fair -- There is a thesis, but many confusing sections in your evidence -- draft is too short	Poor – The essay is extremely off-topic or very disorganized -- or your draft is just too short
Number of Sources in Works Cited	7-9 <i>Higher quality sources (responsible Library databases / high-quality journalism / scholarly articles / book chapter)</i>	5-7	5 <i>Lower quality sources (from search engines / open Internet / 'random' online articles)</i>	4	<=3
Number of Sources Discussed and Cited in Your Paper	5 - 7	5	4	4	<=3
Paper Length	6 - 7 pages (1,500-1750 words)	6 - 7 pages (1,500 words minimum)	5 - 6 pages (1,250 words minimum)	4 pages (1,100 words minimum)	< 4 pages (< 1,100 words)
Works Cited Page	YES	YES	YES	YES	MISSING or NO ATTEMPT MADE TO CREATE VALID MLA CITATIONS
Plagiarism?	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Cites in Text for Quotes / Paraphrased Facts & Ideas	YES / YES	YES / YES	YES / YES	YES / YES	MISSING / MISSING

Grammar and Style:	
Argument / Development / Flow:	
Works Cited Page / Use of Sources in Discussion:	