**Research Paper: Guidelines & Instructions**

**Due Date: by 16 November 2016[[1]](#footnote-1)**

You will write a 1000- to 1250-word research paper on the topic you have chosen. This research paper is the culmination of the work you will submit throughout the course as part of the research project (totalling 40%). In order, you will hand in **a topic proposal with a brief bibliography (5%)**, an **outline with an** **annotated bibliography (15%)**, and **the research paper (20%)**. There will be specific instructions and guidelines for each of these assignments. The following is for the final product – the research paper – so that you have an idea of where you are headed with your research work. When you submit your research paper (by Nov. 16), you must include all previous submitted (marked) work for this project as well as at least one draft showing your progress from draft to final version of paper.

**General Guidelines**

Below (pages 2-3) are some specific suggestions for each research paper option. There are, however, general guidelines which you must all follow.

1. Your paper should not fall short of 1000 words. It must be typed, double-spaced, written in 12-pt Times New Roman font, and stapled.
2. Your paper must have an introduction paragraph in which you have a clear and concise thesis statement that either takes a position or delineates what you will specifically explore. You should also have a brief overview (after the thesis statement) of how you will proceed to support or prove your thesis. Each body paragraph/section[[2]](#footnote-2) must have a clear topic sentence that tells the reader what this paragraph will argue (or address, explore, examine, etc.). You must then support your topic sentence with evidence from secondary sources which you integrate and analyze into a cohesive and coherent argument/idea. Your paper must end with a conclusion paragraph in which you sum up your topic (thesis) and subtopics. State your conclusions about the overall validity of your topic. Offer suggestions, predictions, personal insights and a resolution.
3. Your paper must conform to proper MLA standards for referencing, style & formatting. Go to <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/library/files/2013/01/MLA-Guide.pdf> or <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> or simply google MLA formatting (see also the documents I attached on our Lea classroom page). You must have a minimum of 4 reputable sources that you use as references in your paper.[[3]](#footnote-3) You will cite and source these references as evidence to support the point/argument you are making. The research you include in your paper should consist mostly of summary and paraphrase of what you have read in books and articles. You can also use quotes, but they must be brief and they must be used sparingly. For summary and paraphrase, see <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/tipsheets/writing/paraphrasing.pdf> and <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/tipsheets/writing/paraphrasing.pdf>. For quote integration, see <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/tipsheets/writing/integrating-quotes.pdf> or the above LITC link (or the documents I attached on our Lea classroom page).

**No Title Page**: I do not want a cover page; instead see the sample paper in your course pack (88), or go to <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/13/>

**Note on Plagiarism**: Any idea that does not come from you, whether quoted or paraphrased or summarized MUST be referenced. Failure to give credit to an idea that is not your own is deemed plagiarism. Any form of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero on paper, and a letter from me will be placed in your file. For information on plagiarism, consult *The Vanier Student Writing Guide*, the *Vanier College Catalogue*, and the *Student Handbook*. To ensure full academic integrity, you are asked to submit your paper to **turnitin.com**, an online source-checking database. I will give you instructions in class and through MIO on how to do this.

**MLA Formatting, Academic Integrity and Mark Breakdown:**

Your research paper must be properly formatted and reference according to MLA guidelines.

**Turnitin.com:** You must also submit your annotated bibliography to [www.turnitin.com.](http://www.turnitin.com.) Simply go to the site and register using the following:

* **class ID: 13289627**
* **enrollment password:** **language**

Then attach your annotated bibliography or cut & paste it (MLA formatting does not matter as I will not be marking this e-version of your outline; I will be marking your hard copy).

* The class name is **A16** **Language and Learning in Literature (603-HSE-VA, sec. 9)**
* The assignment (paper) name is **Research Paper**

You have until 11:59 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 16 to submit your paper to turnitin.com.

**Grading scheme**: The assignment will be marked as follows:

* Content: /30
* Organization: /30
* Expression: /30
* MLA: /10

Total: /100 (worth 20% of semester)

**For more information on writing a research paper…**

* Refer to the sample research paper included in your course pack (88-90), or go to <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/13/>
* Check out <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/tipsheets/writing/research-paper(57).pdf>

**Research Paper Options**

Read the following suggested parameters for the option you have chosen. Remember that for each body paragraph/section (regardless of which option you have chosen), you must provide specific examples and research (cited according to MLA format), analyze how your research supports your subtopic, and sum up and transition to the next subtopic.

For help in reading and analyzing scholarly articles and books, see <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/files/2016/08/Reading-a-Textbook-or-Article.pdf> and <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/files/2016/08/Analysis-of-an-Article-or-Book.pdf>

* **Option** **1**: An **issue/problem** in the field of education or in a field related to education, language or learning.

Briefly establish the background, history and significance of the issue. How did this issue come up? That is, what factors helped cause it or bring it into the public consciousness)? Why is it a significant issue today? Then look at both sides of the issue; finally, take a position. One way to do this is to start by summarizing some of the research or expert analysis on this issue. Then, you argue for one specific position on this issue with support from secondary sources. You may want to consult the document, “15 Faults to Fail the Argument” from the Learning Centre: <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/files/2016/08/Fifteen-Faults-to-Fail-the-Argument.pdf>

* **Option 2**: A **comparison** of two specific educational systems, methods, institutions, philosophies, etc.

Establish the points of comparison or contrast you will explore (e.g. cost-effective analysis and academic success analysis of the two systems, methods, etc). Then use either Point-by-Point comparison or Block comparison to consider these systems in relation to the points of comparison. Take a clear position at the end by either arguing that one system (or method, etc) is better or by claiming that since there are merits to both systems, perhaps a combination of the two is best. Or, you could argue that more research and debate is needed before a decision can be reached. For more information on this type of essay, consult the Learning Centre document, “Compare/Contrast Essays” at <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/files/2016/08/Comparison-Contrast-Essays.pdf>

* **Option 3**: An **innovation** in a discipline/field related to education (e.g. e-learning and online studies; adaptive technology for special needs students; etc.).

For the innovation option, I suggest the following outline:

* + Paragraph/Section 1: Describe this innovation (brief history & background) and state how & why it is innovative.
  + Paragraph/Section 2: State why this innovation is currently relevant (i.e., by discussing its functions, purposes & goals in the present).
  + Paragraph/Section 3: State why this innovation will be relevant in the future (i.e., by discussing its functions, purposes & goals in the future)

If there is any controversy/debate surrounding this innovation, you could discuss this in a separate paragraph/section and perhaps analyze the current & future relevance of the innovation in a single paragraph.

* **Option 4**: A **career** in a discipline/field of education or in a discipline/field for which you are now receiving an education.

For this career option, I suggest the following outline:

* + Paragraph/Section 1: Describe this career (brief history & background) and state how & why it is relevant today.
  + Paragraph/Section 2: Describe the process of preparing/training for this career.
  + Paragraph/Section 3: State how & why this career will continue to be relevant in the future.

Alternatively, you could discuss the prep/training in paragraph/section 1 along with the brief background and then discuss the current relevance in paragraph/section 2. Or, you could discuss the background/history in paragraph/section 1, the training in paragraph/section 2, and the current & future relevance in paragraph/section 3.

* **Option 5**: A **literary analysis** paper: for this one, you can relate an issue in education (supported by research findings) to one or more of the works studied in this class.

Relate an issue in education (supported by research findings) to one or more of the works studied in this class.This essay will beakin to the in-class analytical essay, except that you must incorporate secondary sources (i.e. analysis from published authors writing on the work(s) you are considering). Remember to discuss how the author(s) use(s) literary elements to explore the theme you are analyzing. See <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/files/2016/08/Analyzing-Short-Stories.pdf> or <http://www.vaniercollege.qc.ca/tlc/files/2016/08/Analysis-of-an-Article-or-Book.pdf>

If there are any questions, you can contact me through MIO or make an appointment to see me in my office.

***Good luck!***

1. You must submit the hard copy of your paper by Wednesday, **November 16 at the start of class (2 p.m.).** Papers submitted after 2 p.m. on the 16th will be late. There is a 5% late penalty per day late. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For a 1000- to 1250-word research paper, you should probably have between 3-5 body paragraphs. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. At least three sources must be from a published book, a scholarly journal or an official, non-commercial website (e.g. government site, not a .com site). The other source should be from a reputable source – e.g. a newspaper or news magazine). Do not use Wikipedia as a source, though you may want to use the references at the end of a Wikipedia entry to help in your research. Do not use about.com as a source. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)