MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
UTICA AND ROME, NEW YORK  
EN 101: English I Composition

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Office Hours  
T & Th 10:00 – 12:00  
T Online 9:00 – 10:00 PM  

Research Paper Assignment

Chose an artist (painter, writer, musician, photographer) – You must approve all research topics with me prior to writing your rough draft. This is a research paper, not an opinion paper; therefore your topic must have a clear thesis statement and be researchable in a scholarly manner. Make sure you create a well-articulated paper. Be sure to have a clear thesis statement and supporting ideas throughout your paper.

It is important that you include in your paper specific examples: if your topic deals with poetry, make sure you include examples of poetry in your paper. If your topic is the Leonardo Da Vinci – then you must include examples of his artwork in your paper. Images do not count towards paper length. Your paper must be 7 - 10 pages of text.

Plagiarism (from the Latin word for “kidnapper”) is the presentation of someone else’s ideas or words as your own. You plagiarize deliberately if you copy a sentence from a book and pass it off as your own writing, if you summarize or paraphrase someone else’s ideas without acknowledging your debt, or if you buy or borrow a term paper to hand in as your own. You plagiarize accidentally if you carelessly forget quotation marks around another writer’s words or mistakenly omit a source of citation for another’s idea because you are unaware of the need to acknowledge the idea.

Your paper must adhere to the MLA format and needs to be 7 - 10 pages in length, double-spaced. Be sure to include your name, my name, class name, time and day the class meets on page one. All papers must be stapled, no paper clips. Anyone caught plagiarizing will be dealt with according to College Policy and fail this course.

You must use at least four sources for this paper from the MVCC library database. You are encourage to use one film one demand, books, journal articles and news papers. You may use one Internet source; please choose that one source wisely, although the library database can be accessed from your home, it is NOT an Internet source. Remember, the library and the writing center is here to help you. Please utilize these resources to ensure you hand in a clear coherent well written paper.

You are responsible for scheduling one 10-minute individual conference with the instructor to review your paper. These conferences will be held during regular class time, but they will be in PH328. You must show up for your conference on time with a completed rough draft of your paper (hard copy), a formal outline, and an electronic copy of your essay. You must have in your essay a works cited page and in text citations. If you do not show up, if you show up late, or if you show up unprepared you will receive an F on this assignment.

Any questions about this assignment need to be voiced now or in the near future, not when the assignment is being collected. Assignments must be submitted on time. Deadlines are a part of life; late work will not be accepted.
The following information must be included in your essay in this order:

- Biographical information on your writer
- Discuss in detail the time period he/she lived in, what was happening in history, who was the president, what was considered modern technology
- What style and genera does the writer create (short stories, poetry, novels)
- What are their major works, use excerpts from these works, and discuss the themes in the major
- What his/her artwork is in reaction too
- Why you chose this particular artist

Begin this process of searching for a topic by brainstorming, is often a successful way for students to get some of their ideas down on paper.

Develop a research question, for example: Is Salvador Dali the most influential painter of the twentieth century because of his use of fantasy and surrealism? Be sure to develop your thesis statement directly off your research question.

Ask the following (7) questions to evaluate the quality of your research question and the ease with which you should be able to answer it:

1. Does the question deal with a topic or issue that interests me enough to spark my own thoughts and opinions?
2. Is the question easily and fully researchable?
3. What type of information do I need to answer the research question?
4. Given the type of scope of the information that I need, is my question too broad, too narrow, or just right?
5. What sources will have the type of information that I need to answer the research question (journals, books, internet resources, government document, and people)?
6. Can I access these sources?
7. Given my answer to the above questions, do I have a good quality research question that I actually will be able to answer by doing research?

***You must visit the learning center for one-on-one help prior to submitting your essay for a grade. You will need to staple the LC document to your final essay.