

## Researched Essay

**The Essay:** The Researched Essay, while similar to both Multiple Source Essays, is the culmination of English 112 and the General Studies Writing Program. All the skills you have been practicing this semester and last now will come together in one glorious, triumphant success of an essay. That being said, I hope I have not intimidated you too much...

**The Purpose:** The entire point of this essay is for you to practice writing, synthesizing, and researching skills, all on your own. That's right; you're working without a net. All the research for this essay will be from outside sources, which will make sense once you know what kind of topic to pick.

**The Topic:** You are free to choose a (debatable) topic, with one requirement: your paper must deal with a current question or issue within your major field of study. Just like past essays, this one also needs to be an argument. To find out about issues within your major, consult a textbook from one of your classes. Refer to the research databases subject areas on the library's web page. Ask a professor in your major. Look up a current journal that focuses on your chosen profession. As you can see, this essay takes some research even before you decide on your topic. If you are currently an undecided major, choose the field you are leaning towards, or the field you have had a class in recently.

### Due Dates:

Research Proposal—	Monday, Mar. 19
Annotated Bibliography—	Wednesday, Mar. 28
Values Exploration Sheet—	Friday, Mar. 30
First Draft—	Monday, Apr. 2
Peer Review Summary—	Friday, Feb. 9
Second Draft—	Friday, Apr. 13
Revised Draft (Optional) —	Wednesday, Apr. 25

**Requirements:** Basically, this paper is similar to your Multiple Source Essays #1 and #2, with a few changes:

- ◇ Once again, your thesis must be debatable, meaning a reasonable person could argue either for or against it.
- ◇ The page length is longer: between 6-8 pages, double-spaced.
- ◇ Synthesis of sources is required; try for synthesis in each main point.
- ◇ Balanced development of key points is required: make sure you don't overuse sources. Use quotations only when you can't say it any better yourself. Remember to always analyze your sources: talk about what they mean, how they are important, don't just plop them in randomly.
- ◇ Counterargument is necessary.
- ◇ You need to have at least 6 but as many as 8 sources. See "A Note on Sources" on the reverse side of this sheet.
- ◇ MLA citation is required, as usual.

**Evaluation:** The second draft of this essay will be given a letter grade, as explained in the Achievement Requirements for this class. This essay is revisable.

*Grade Breakdown:*

Proposal	= 10 pts.
Annotated Bibliography	= 10 pts.
Values Exploration Sheet	= 5 pts.
First Draft	= 10 pts.
Peer Review Feedback	= 5 pts.
Second Draft	= 100 pts.
	-----
Total	= 140 pts.

**A = 140-126**

**B = 125-112**

**C = 111-98**

**NP = less than 98**

(Second Draft Grading: A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; NP = less than 70)

**A Note on Sources:** You need to use between 6 and 8 sources, synthesizing as many as possible. When you are searching for sources, use the Library's book and periodical searching services first. You will have much better luck with finding good sources from here than from internet searches through Yahoo and Google. Also, I am requiring that at least one source be from a scholarly journal in your major. This will probably be the best kind of source you can find. Refer to the handout "A Short Guide to Research at BGSU" for more information.

**An Option:** You may choose, depending on your topic, to conduct a survey or interview. This would replace one of your sources, and would be cited in MLA format. This is a fun and interesting way to get the information you need. More information about regulations for this is found in your 112 Portfolio folder under the heading "HSRB Policies Regarding Field Research Regulations." A good idea might be to interview a professor in your major.

**Outline:** An outline of this essay would look the same as any MSE outline. Refer to past handouts and MSE assignment sheets for sample outlines.

**Brainstorming:**

My major field of study is:

Topics I know are issues in my future profession are:

Places I could go or people I could ask for more information about issues in my major:

**Good Luck!**