

Narrative Research Paper

REQUIREMENTS:

5-7 pages. Times New Roman font, 12 pt., double spaced, one-inch margins.
Three to five secondary credible sources.

In this paper, you will use research to narrate the past, present and future state of a particular topic pertaining to the criminal justice system or mass incarceration.

Directions:

1. Find a topic: from one of the texts we've reviewed in class and research it further. You'll want the topic to be specific, but broad enough to research and find 3-5 sources about it. It would also be a good time to glance at websites for The Appeal and the Marshall Project to come up with ideas.

Sample ideas might include:

Laws: Stand Your Ground, Three Strikes, Mandatory Minimum Sentencing. Stop and Frisk.

Issues: Prison labor, parole boards, power of public defenders, solitary confinement, punitive vs. restorative justice movements, nutrition/prison food, prison education (particularly college in prisons, which is making a comeback), Militarization of the police, criminalizing of drugs, immigration issues including criminalizing of immigration/overstaying visas, private prisons, bail and the movements to end it, ban the box movements, issues with reentry, voting rights in prisons, 2018 prison strike/riot movement, parole requirement.

Remember, this is a research paper, not an argument, so "Abolishing the death penalty" wouldn't be a good topic. The death penalty in Georgia, however, would be an acceptable topic.

1. Research. Use the library databases. Find sources that have been published in the last five years, if possible. Wikipedia is not an option for one of those sources, but you can start on their page to find terms to search and links to more sources.

Look for sources that provide the following:

- Good definitions of terms that you use in the paper
- Historical background to your topic
- Illustrations for different aspects of the issue that you will explain in the paper, particularly ones that show the reader what the situation with this topic is like in the present day
- Proposed solutions to the problem or progress about the issue.

- Different opinions about the issue.
1. Start collecting their citations in a document so that you will have them handy when you start to cite them in a paper.
 2. Write an annotated bibliography and write a short proposal. The proposal should include a working thesis.
 3. Write the paper once the proposal has been approved. *Write the works cited page first!* It will make in-text citations so much easier. Use transitions between paragraphs. Have a clear setup with a thesis, and conclude the paper in a compelling way. Note that this should be written as an objective display of information—it shouldn't feel like an argument and if you present one view, as much as possible, you'll want to also present the other side to balance it out. As you write your conclusion, consider assessing the information with possible solutions or the lasting impact/significance of the topic.
 4. Peer Review. Revise.
 5. Submit it on iCollege.

PROPOSAL AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Directions: Write a short (one paragraph) proposal for your research paper, and then follow it up with an annotated bibliography for a minimum of three sources that you are thinking of using.

Part I. Proposal:

The paragraph should include the following:

A brief introduction to the topic, why you are interested in it, and what you still need to find out.
You should end the paragraph with a working thesis for the paper.

Example: I will write my paper about Devil's Night, which is a phenomenon that used to take place in Detroit each year the night before Halloween. I'm from Detroit, and my father was a fire fighter during the height of the tradition, between the 1970s and early 2000s. On October 30th, arsonists burned down the city's abandoned houses, which, after economic downturn, were all over the place. In 1986, there was a record 816 fires on that one night. The city later planned community surveillance and instated "Angel's Night," which reduced the arson. I still want to find out if the tradition has any remnants—whether there is still a curfew on that night. I'm still tinkering with the wording, but right now my working thesis is: "Detroit's yearly arson festival, Devil's Night, helped to shape the city's national reputation as place of anarchy, violence, and poverty."

Part II. Annotated Bibliography

Write out the MLA citation and an annotation for a minimum of three sources that you will use for your final paper. Each annotation should include two parts: a brief summary of the text, and a description of how you might apply it in your paper..

THE SUMMARY:

State what the text is. Example: an article from the *Washington Post*. An opinion piece from *Vanity Fair*.

How does the author begin, develop, and conclude the piece?

THE EVALUATION:

What in this will you apply to the paper? How will you use it? Be as descriptive as possible.

Sample MLA Annotation (From *The Owl Purdue*)

Lamott, Anne. *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Anchor Books, 1995.

[SUMMARY:] Lamott's book offers honest advice on the nature of a writing life, complete with its insecurities and failures. The chapters in Lamott's book are wry and anecdotal as they offer advice on everything from plot development to jealousy, from perfectionism to struggling with one's own internal critic.

[EVALUATION]: Several of the chapters in Part I address the writing process and would help illustrate a discussion about drafting and revising processes.

Author's Name:

Reader's Name

Rubric for Research Paper II

Intro/Focus/Intro 25%

- Did the essay have a topic sentence?
- Enough background on the topic to give context in the intro?
- Were you able to highlight the thesis?
- How specific was the thesis?

5	4	3	2	5<
Masterful/Original	Good	Average	There but flawed	Missing/Unacceptable

Organization 25%

- Were you ever confused while reading this essay? If so, where?
- Did the paragraphs have transitions and introduce each topic?
- Did the paragraphs have an “assessment”?

5	4	3	2	5<
Masterful/Original	Good	Average	There but flawed	Missing/Unacceptable

Using Sources 25%

- Were you always able to tell where the quotes started and ended?
- Did the writer use the TIQA format and introduce the quote?
- Was there an in-text citation where necessary? A works cited page?

5	4	3	2	5<
Masterful/Original	Good	Average	There but flawed	Missing/Unacceptable

Format/Grammar/Punctuation: 25%

- Does it look like the author proofread this? (For instance, were proper nouns capitalized?)
- Was there any sentence the reader had to read twice to understand?

5	4	3	2	5<
Masterful/Original	Good	Average	There but flawed	Missing/Unacceptable