

## ASSIGNMENT 7: RESEARCH PAPER

Assignment Purpose: To give you the opportunity to practice entering an academic dialogue about one or more primary texts.

### Assignment Details:

Choose one or two primary texts that have interested you this quarter. More than two primary sources is likely to overwhelm you, but if you feel strongly that you want to write about more than two, please discuss this decision with me. With prior permission, you may also write about a primary text having to do with Elizabeth that is not on our syllabus. What interested you about this/these primary text(s)? What critical approaches to texts by and about Elizabeth have you found compelling? Use these questions to begin to narrow a topic for research.

Using at least 5 secondary sources (essays, journal articles, book chapters) NOT included on the syllabus, write an 8-10 page paper making an original argument about your primary text(s) and positioning that argument in relation to recent scholarship. Most of your secondary sources should be from the last 10 years, to ensure that you're entering a *current* conversation (rather than an old one). You may use a secondary text from the syllabus if you want, but it will not count toward your 5 sources.

You can engage with your secondary sources in a variety of ways. You can completely disagree. You can agree but add to what the scholar has said. You can agree in part but also take issue with part of the argument. *You should never simply agree; in that case, you aren't making your own argument.*

This assignment is purposely broad and flexible to allow you to discover and pursue your own interests. You will find it very helpful to come talk to me in office hours as you narrow and refine your topic. Please come see me as early as possible to get your ideas going.

To help you manage the scale of this assignment, it will be due in several stages, beginning with a proposal and annotated bibliography. You will have two early drafts of the paper due for peer and instructor feedback. For the first draft due during week 8, you should bring about 2-4 pages. For the second draft due during week 9, you should bring at least 6 pages (a complete draft is also acceptable).