

## **Final Paper Guide**

For your final paper, you will compose a 10-page argument-driven essay that synthesizes scholarly research with your own critical analysis of primary texts.

Unlike an *informational* research paper—which simply summarizes the information, events, and critical literature surrounding a topic—an *argument-based* research paper should highlight your own claims and place the research materials into conversation with these ideas. Although you might need to provide background information, the thrust of your paper will be your thesis/argument and the way you engage with your sources to support (and sometimes challenge) your claims.

### **Topic**

In keeping with our course inquiry, “Utopian Occupations,” your paper should focus around a particular space and its representation in early modern English literature. You may choose to “occupy” one of the many spaces we will be discussing over the quarter, or you may decide to examine another location that piques your interest.

### **Requirements**

Your paper must incorporate the following materials:

- At least one Renaissance literary text
- At least one archival text from EEBO (Early English Books Online)
- At least four scholarly (peer-reviewed) sources (two of which should be published in the last 10 years)

### **Formatting & Specifications**

The final draft of the research paper should...

- Be approximately 10 pages, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Include an effective title that alludes to both your topic and argument.
- Provide accurate and consistent documentation of source materials (either MLA or Chicago style)

### **Process**

Over the quarter, you will engage in short research exercises and compose an annotated bibliography / critical history, the components of which can be revised, adapted, and incorporated into your final paper. Our course is structured to ensure interactions with the kinds of materials you will need to include in your final paper (primary literary and archival texts, and critical scholarship). Moreover, we will take time in class to discuss various components of research: negotiating catalogues and databases; determining the usefulness of sources; mining critical works for relevant information; and taking notes to interact with critics’ ideas and avoid accidental plagiarism. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences concerning research both in class and through our SmartSite blog. Finally, you will engage with

your peers' writing through in-class workshops and ultimately share the fruits of your endeavors in a short presentation at the end of the course.

**Important Dates**

- Day 19: Draft of final paper due for in-class workshop
- \_\_\_\_\_: Final paper due in SS Assignments

**Evaluation Methods**

<b>Paper Component</b>
<p><b>Meets Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows assignment specifications (formatting, page count, title)</li> <li>• Incorporates evidence from at least 4 scholarly sources</li> <li>• Includes analysis of at least one Renaissance literary text and at least one archival text from EEBO</li> </ul>
<p><b>Argument, Evidence, Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains a clear thesis statement that establishes what insight the writer's interpretation will provide</li> <li>• Provides, breaks down, interprets, and comments on supporting evidence</li> <li>• Communicates the larger significance or implications of the argument (exigence)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Focus/Organization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows a logical organization that clearly connects to the central inquiry</li> <li>• Connects critical source materials clearly to the overall argument</li> <li>• Employs effective transitions between sections, paragraphs, and sentences</li> <li>• Contains a clear and satisfying opening and closing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Style, Grammar &amp; Mechanics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Style (diction, sentence structure, etc.) is appropriate for the audience</li> <li>• Effectively introduces and integrates critical source materials</li> <li>• The paper is carefully proofread for problems with grammar, punctuation, spelling, and other mechanics</li> </ul>
<p><b>Citation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes accurate MLA or Chicago in-text citation</li> <li>• Bibliographical citations (Works Cited or Bibliography) are accurate and correctly formatted</li> </ul>