

Cardinal Compositions

University of Louisville

ENGL 102: Researching Popular Culture

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Corresponding Essays

- Harris, Victoria. "Witches on Surfboards: How Witch Media Has Ridden the Waves of Feminism." *Cardinal Compositions*, 2019-2020 issue, pp. 39-43.
- Coughenour, Brooke. "Rosemary's Baby and the Cult of Domesticity." *Cardinal Compositions*, 2019-2020 issue, pp. 45-49.

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This assignment has gone by a few different names this semester—an argumentative paper, a simple research paper, the final paper—but, whatever you call it, **the researched paper serves as the ending of our time together, and a culmination of all the hard work that you’ve put into my class this semester.** Taking the skills you developed in summarization from the review, the research questions and critical thinking that you displayed in your proposal, and the analysis of other sources, thinking how they’ve impacted your argument, that you fleshed out in the literature review, the researched paper is where you explain your artifact’s academic significance and tie a nice little bow on the work—both mental and physical—that you’ve conducted. You’ve selected your artifact, you’ve written your research questions, you’ve spent time researching; now, you’re showing your audience that thinking you’ve done all semester adds up to a new, worthy academic study.

I’m certain that you’ve written a paper like this before; however, a specific structure for a paper of this length might be helpful. A general outline is as follows:

- Every paper begins with a **title**, and it might benefit you to use the “Something Quippy: What My Paper is About” format to create yours. (For example: “Playing the Race Card: An Exploration of the Black Male Experience in *American Crime Story: The People v. O.J. Simpson.*)
- An **introduction** comes next, which certainly may be longer than a single paragraph. An effective introduction should contain ample background information (including the context surrounding the creation of your artifact—similar to what you did in the review), an interesting hook to keep your audience reading, and a **thesis statement which clearly states your argument to your audience, complete with a claim and explanation(s).**
- Next comes the entirety of your paper (!), which is often, too simply, referred to as the **body** of your paper. **The researched paper should contain specific, detailed examples from your artifact (or artifacts) that support your argument, complemented by the information contained in your outside sources.**
 - In some cases, the **literature review** comes immediately after the introduction/context of a paper. This is one way to do it, but it might be more effective to spread out the literature review piecemeal, introducing your sources when they are applicable to your claims.
- Some of your topics have **counterarguments** seemingly built into them, and a counterargument typically (but certainly not always) comes after you’ve made your case. A counterargument is an academic, professional way to solidify the significance of your argument, but not every topic in this classroom has a natural one to include.
- I’m fundamentally interested in your own experiences when analyzing your artifact, and I’m giving you space to explain your **personal connections** here. In this section, using “I” is encouraged, although **you should avoid it in the rest of your paper.**
- A **conclusion** comes last, which can do a handful of things, including reiterating your argument, making a call to action (example: all shows should provide the same attention to race that ACS does), or suggesting future research on your audience’s part.

And that’s it! You’ve got this!

Details:

- Final draft due Monday, December 2, 2019, on Blackboard, by class time.
 - Rough draft due Monday, November 11, 2019, in the Blackboard discussion board, by 11:59 PM.
- Length: 7-9 pages. Write until you exhaust yourself!
- MLA citation style (unless I've made an exception); Times New Roman & 12 pt. font; running header in top right corner; double-spaced; Works Cited page on its own separate page at the end of the document; my last name spelled correctly; your last name spelled correctly.