

Paper Requirements

1. Pick a Topic
2. Decide what you want to say about the topic
3. Formulate your **thesis statement** (this is your main point and claim; it should be possible to disagree with your thesis)
Example: "Even though Gilgamesh and Achilles were born more than one thousand years apart, they share striking similarities. They are both..."
or
"Oedipus is a tragic hero; he fits the characteristics of..."
4. Create an outline (think about which points you want to present to prove your thesis statement)
5. Find **3 sources** (these cannot be websites; go to A&M's online databases; you can find plenty of articles about any subject)
6. **Read and highlight your sources**
7. Revise your outline (maybe your sources gave you new ideas?)
8. Write the paper
9. Keep in mind that every paragraph needs to support the thesis statement
10. Use **examples** from the text frequently (maybe once in each paragraph)
11. The text in our textbook is a **primary source**; the sources you found that were written about the original text are **secondary sources**; you are required to use three secondary sources in addition to the primary source
12. Use the **present tense** throughout the paper (when you are writing about literature, you must use the present tense)
13. Use **MLA style** in your paper and on your works cited page; you can find help under "Paper"; you can also get the *MLA Handbook* (that is the ultimate authority)
14. Format the paper according to MLA specifications
15. You do not need a cover page
16. I strongly recommend an outline, but you are not required to have one
17. What you must have is: five pages of your text including quotations from our text and your sources, and a works cited page
18. If you do not use any sources in your paper, you have failed the assignment and will at best get a 50 (out of 100)
19. You must be able to provide the sources if I ask for them; email them to yourself from the database (then you can forward them to me if needed)
20. Write your paper in **Times New Roman, size 12 and double space**
21. Check the rubric on Blackboard to see if you included all the elements
22. Turn in your paper and a copy of the rubric (on Blackboard under "Paper Rubric")
23. Upload your paper to Blackboard (under "Paper") to check for plagiarism
24. If you have questions, contact Mrs. Hayes; she will gladly try to help