

Essay 2: Researched Argument

Purpose: Make an argument about film or television using the conventions of scholarly writing.

Your original, specific topic and thesis should add to the conversation by demonstrating the relationship between film/television and a field or fields of study. For example, you might make an argument about how concepts from behavioral psychology (field of study) show up in the film *Booksmart* or how the Coen brothers adapt ancient Greek poetry in *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (the field of study would be literature).

Audience: Your audience is made up of academics interested in film and television, but to get more specific you should **target a specific scholarly journal**. In other words, write your essay as if you desperately want the target journal to publish it.

Find a journal by researching your topic idea/research question(s). Pay attention to which journals publish the articles most like the essay you want to write. We'll work on this in class and through exercises.

Methods and Materials: You will need to use both scholarly and popular sources. Base your methods on our classwork and your interpretation of the conventions of scholarly writing. Also, you might use methods based on the journal you target.

You must use at least eight sources in total. No less than four of these should be scholarly sources.

****Use MLA style****

Minimum requirements:

- 7-9 pages, double-spaced
- Don't forget page numbers.
- Word document (.doc, .docx). NO GOOGLE DOCS.
- Include page numbers
- Use at least eight total sources
- Use at least four scholarly sources
- Sources must be attributed or cited in the essay itself AND in the Works Cited

Evaluation: I will use the same essay rubric as I did for Essay 1 (see Blackboard). Please note that what makes for an ambitious argument and effective style in scholarly writing is different than the kind of writing you did for Essay 1. Adapt accordingly.

Submission:

Preliminary Draft – Email me a preliminary draft by **November 11** at 11:59 PM. Send as a Word file attachment. This should be a complete draft (citations, meets the page count, etc.) We will address your draft during a one-on-one conference.

Workshop Draft – Send a workshop draft to your group members by **November 21** at 11:59 PM. I recommend using a Google Doc, but you can work this out in your groups. This should be a complete draft. You may use the preliminary draft if you must, but I strongly suggest editing and revising as much as possible to get the most out of workshop.

Final Draft – Please note that, unlike Essay 1, you will not be about to revise after submitting the final draft. Email this to me as a Word file attachment by 11:59 PM on **December 2**.