

Engl 1B, Fall 2005
Second Essay (Mini-Research Paper)
Outline Due: Tuesday, Oct. 25th
Essay Due: Tuesday, Nov 1st

Your second essay assignment has two parts: an outline and short bibliography, which is due on October 25, and the essay itself, which is due a week later. Remember that, when you hand in the full essay on November 1, you also need to re-submit all marked parts of the first essay on evolution (theses, opening paragraphs, the essay, and the revision), as well as the outline. Also remember that you will need to submit this essay to Turnitin.com before the deadline, the previous midnight (October 31). That's right – Halloween. And I'm sure you have better things to do that night than work on your essay, so my advice is to get your essay done and submitted to Turnitin.com early.

For this essay, our focus shifts from constructing the thesis and arguments, to supporting them with research, which is why I've called it a "mini-research paper." The essay will be shorter than the final research paper for the class, and the topics and even some of the research will be given to you. But in terms of developing your arguments and supporting them, this essay will be very much a research paper.

As you know from the readings, the general topic for this essay is "Dangerous Dogs"—and, specifically, we are interested in looking at the problems of vicious and powerful dogs in our communities, and various proposals to solve those problems, including by controlling or banning specific breeds of dogs. Some of the readings are designed to give you background information about the problem; others cover the issues dealing with breed-specific controls.

Research. Your first job is to formulate a more specific topic for your essay, including a preliminary thesis. To find information relating to that specific topic, you will need to do a little research, and come up with a minimum of five sources, either in print (books or journals) or in the library databases. *You may use web pages if you wish, but only in addition to those five sources, and only if you discuss the reliability of the web-page material in the essay.*

Outline. The second part of the assignment is the outline and bibliography. The outline must contain at least five paragraphs (Roman numerals), each with its own thesis statement and at least one example of support from an identified source. The bibliography, in MLA format (see your handbook), should list your five sources plus the class readings for this section on dogs (even if you are not planning to use some or all of the class readings).

Essay. The third part of the assignment is the essay itself—about 1250 words, or five pages, double-spaced. It need not strictly follow your outline—you should expect that your some of your original concept will undergo changes during construction of the essay. Like the outline, though, it should be a well-developed argument, in which research is used to support the main claim of each paragraph, and those claims all have a direct bearing on your thesis statement. Integrate quotations into your prose, and avoid long, indented ones. Be sure to analyze or discuss the quotations, to be sure the reader understands the specific use you are making of them, and how they support your arguments.

In developing your arguments, remember the lessons of the "evolution vs. intelligent design" assignment: you need to anticipate the problems with all sides of a dispute, and create a robust presentation that incorporates your understanding of both the advantages and disadvantages. If you seem to be ignoring shortcomings in your own presentation—intentionally or not—your reader will almost certainly discount you as a reliable source on the subject.