

Engl 1B, Fall 2005

Research Paper Assignment:

Sources: Due Nov. 15

Thesis: Due Nov. 17

Paragraph: Due Nov. 22

Essay: Due Dec. 1

The research paper is your final assignment for the semester (except for one more in-class essay to help prepare for the final), and it comes in four parts, all of which need to be brought to class on the dates due, typed and double spaced. You can choose any topic you wish for your research project, within the general area of reparations. To get a better idea of what that area includes, we will be reading and discussing some background material, but you need not feel limited to the examples of reparation proposals, demands, or agreements covered in those articles. The parts of the assignment are as follows:

Sources. Prepare a list of at least ten sources for your research, in the format of an MLA works cited page, and annotate each entry with one or two sentences that briefly describe the source and explain why you have selected it.

Thesis. As you did for an earlier assignment, please come to class with two copies of a thesis statement (one to hand in, and one to use in a classroom exercise). The thesis should be argumentative—that is, it should state in some detail what it is your essay will prove. Though there is nothing stopping you from changing or modifying that thesis later in the process of writing the essay, to get the maximum benefit out of the exercise, and to be sure you will have enough time for both the research and composition involved, by this time you should have a pretty good idea of what your topic is and how you are planning to approach it.

Paragraph. This time, come to class with two copies of a first paragraph, incorporating your thesis (possibly modified from the previous step). The paragraph should introduce your topic and develop the ideas that are central to your thesis. It should be a minimum of four sentences and ten lines long. Remember that the first paragraph is the most important in your essay—it sets out the road map for both you, as the writer, and your reader to follow, and it should do that with both precision and detail.

Essay. The essay should be about 2000 words in length, typed and double spaced. Follow MLA format in citing sources and providing a works cited page (without annotations). In presenting your research, be sure that you use a range of evidence, including statistics generated by both estimation and enumeration, and quotations both from primary sources, such as historical documents and first-person accounts, and secondary ones, such as scholarly essays or journalism. You should quote from at least ten different sources in the essay, all of which originally appeared in print, whether you read it in a digital or printed form. You may use web pages if you wish, but only in addition to those ten sources, and only if you discuss the reliability of the web-page material in the essay. Please remember to use a dictionary to check your word usage, and to proofread thoroughly, even if you use a word processing program with a spell-checker. Also, remember to hand in, along with the research essay, the marked draft and revision of both the first and second essays.