

# w r i t i n g   t h e   r e s e a r c h   p a p e r

dr. david wilson-okamura   english 1200.079   spring 2003   east carolina university

Jan. 7	W	Introduction: <i>The Oxford English Dictionary (OED)</i> . Topic assignments for first essay.
10	F	Read Barzun, "The Word 'Man'" (pp. 168–71). Using the <i>OED</i> , write an 800-word essay on the history of your assigned word; attach photocopy of <i>OED</i> entry for assigned word to your essay.
13	M	Barzun, "The Great Switch" (pp. 470–72); Booth, prologue I and ch. 1: "Thinking in Print" (pp. 1–11).
15	W	Barzun, "Rhetoric—What It Is; Why Needed" (pp. 149–55); Booth, ch. 2: "Connecting with Your Reader" (pp. 12–27).
17	F	Booth, prologue II and ch. 3: "From Topics to Questions" (pp. 29–47). Bring in a typed list of ten research questions on your assigned topic.
21	T	Booth, ch. 4: "From Questions to Problems" (pp. 48–63).
22	W	Booth, ch. 5: "From Questions to Sources" (pp. 64–72); skim "An Appendix on Finding Sources" (pp. 271–88).
24	F	Library day.
27	M	Compile a list of forty potential sources on your topic; use MLA format. Half of these should be written before 1950; no more than five may come from publicly-accessible websites.
29	W	Booth, ch. 6: "Using Sources" (73–84).
31	F	prologue III and ch. 7: "Making Good Arguments: An Overview" (pp. 85–93).
Feb. 3	M	Bring in an annotated bibliography of ten sources; no more than one may come from publicly-accessible websites.
5	W	Booth, ch. 8: "Claims and Evidence" (pp. 94–110).
7	F	Booth, ch. 11: "Pre-Drafting and Drafting" (pp. 155–74).
10	M	First draft of second essay due (length: 3,000–3,500 words); bring two copies.
12	W	Booth, ch. 10: "Qualifications" (pp. 132–48). Workshop first draft.
14	F	Booth, ch. 13: "Revising Your Organization and Argument" (pp. 201–14).
17	M	Second draft of second essay due; bring two copies.
19	W	Booth, ch. 15: "Introductions" (pp. 234–54). Workshop second draft.
21	F	Final draft of second essay due.
24	M	Barzun, "The Search for Truths" and "History as Counter-Method and Abstraction" (pp. 15–25).
26	W	Barzun, "The Necessity of a Common Tongue" (pp. 160–68)
28	F	Barzun, "The Art of Making Teachers" and "Where the Educational Nonsense Comes From" (pp. 387–92)
<b>Mar 2–9</b>		<b>Spring Break</b>
10	M	Barzun, "Occupational Disease: Verbal Inflation" (pp. 392–95). Topics for third essay selected.
12	W	Reread Booth, prologue II and ch. 3: "From Topics to Questions" (pp. 29–47). Bring in a typed list of ten research questions on your selected topic.
14	F	Barzun, "The Three Enemies of Intellect" (pp. 492–509)
17	M	Reread Booth, ch. 4: "From Questions to Problems" (pp. 48–63).
19	W	Barzun, "The Centrality of Reading" and "Of What Use the Classics Today?" (pp. 396–400, 412–24).
21	F	Reread Booth, ch. 5: "From Questions to Sources" (pp. 64–72).
24	M	Compile a list of forty potential sources on your assigned topic; use MLA format. Half of these should be written before 1950; no more than five may come from publicly-accessible websites.
26	W	Reread Booth, ch. 6: "Using Sources" (73–84).
28	F	Bring in an annotated bibliography of ten sources; no more than one may come from publicly-accessible websites.
31	M	Reread Booth, ch. 8: "Claims and Evidence" (pp. 94–110) and ch. 10: "Qualifications" (pp. 132–48).
Apr 2	W	Bring in an outline of your third essay (two copies). Include claim, major points of evidence, and qualifications.
4	F	Barzun, "Administering and the Law" (pp. 488–92).
7	M	First draft of third essay due (length: 3,000–3,500 words); bring two copies.
9	W	Workshop first draft.
11	F	Barzun, "The University's Primary Task" and "The Scholar Is an Institution" (pp. 423–26).
14	M	Second draft of third essay due; bring two copies. Booth, "Research and Ethics" (pp. 255–58).
16	W	Workshop second draft of third essay.
<b>18</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
21	M	Reread Booth, ch. 13: "Revising Your Organization and Argument" (pp. 201–14).
23	W	Reread Booth, ch. 15: "Introductions" (pp. 234–54).
<b>25</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Final draft of third essay due.</b>
28	M	Barzun, "Exeunt the Humanities" (pp. 426–34).
30	W	Barzun, "An American Commencement" (pp. 509–15).

## REQUIRED TEXTS

Barzun, Jacques. *A Jacques Barzun Reader: Selections from His Works*. Ed. Michael Murray. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.

Booth, Wayne C., et al. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1995.

Lunsford, Andrea A. *Easy Writer*. 2nd ed. Boston: St. Martin's, 2002.

## REQUIREMENTS

**All assignments**, including lists of research questions, bibliographies, and peer reviews, are to be typed. Late assignments will receive a lower grade. (For instance, an A- essay that is delivered up to 24 hours late will receive a B+, an A- essay that is delivered between 24 and 48 hours late will receive a B, and so on.)

**Reading, response, revision** (85%). Full-length research papers are seldom composed in one long, continuous writing session. In this course, the writing process is deliberately broken up into several steps, including one or more rounds of revision based on feedback from your peers. As you revise, you will also continue to read more material on the given topic; some of this new material will no doubt be incorporated into your writing as you revise and rethink your arguments.

- All assignments, including intermediate drafts, are to be typed and formatted according to the MLA style as described in Lunsford. Include a list of works cited with every draft.
- First impressions count; so do spelling, punctuation, and grammar. The following basic errors should not appear in college writing, and will lower the final grade for a given paper by a full letter grade: sentence fragments, comma splices (both will have been covered in English 1100, but see Lunsford, pp. 50–55 for review), and misspellings of any kind (including the following homophones: its/it's, their/there, and than/then; see Lunsford, pp. 294, 297),
- Use 12 point Times Roman (or a similar font of the same size).
- Double-space.
- When you're done, do a word count and write the result on the first page of your paper.
- Pages should be (a) stapled and (b) numbered by computer. Ask someone at the computer lab if you don't know how to do this already.
- With every round of revision, you will receive two sets of typed comments; copies of these comments should be attached to the final draft of each essay. If a round of comments is missing, one letter will be deducted from the final grade of the paper; if two rounds of comments are missing, two letter grades will be deducted; and so on.

**Reading Quizzes** (15%). Reading quizzes are scheduled randomly and graded on a pass/fail basis for each question: easy if you do the reading, hard if you don't. There will be no make-ups for missed quizzes.

**Email.** Announcements and changes to the schedule will be delivered by email; you will therefore need to check your university email account on a daily basis.

**Cell phones** are here to stay, but they don't belong in the classroom. If you have one, turn off the ringer before class starts. If you answer a vibrating call alert during class, it had better be your mother calling from her deathbed; anything less urgent will have to wait until the end of class.

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas in such a way that they cannot be readily distinguished from your own words and ideas. It is a form of cheating. If you have questions about plagiarism, please ask me about it before your paper is due; after a paper is handed in it's too late to claim ignorance. The penalty for plagiarism is an automatic F for the course, in addition to whatever penalty the University sees fit to impose.

## IMPORTANT TIMES, PHONE NUMBERS, ADDRESSES

Office: Bate 2137 (phone 252.328.6714)

Email: wilson-okamura@virgil.org

Office hours: MWF 2:50–4:30 and by appointment. If you'd like to schedule an appointment—and I encourage you to do so if these hours don't work for you—just grab me after class or give me a phone call and we'll set up a time. (In practice, I find that setting up appointments via email is not very efficient.) If you call my office and I'm not there, do try me at home, though not after 9:00 pm, please; the phone number there is 252.758.2585.

Email discussion group for this course: comp@virgil.org

Course materials on the web: <http://virgil.org/dswo/courses/research-paper>