

MMW₄T – Fall 2008: Final Paper

(20% of course grade)

Due: Beginning of section during Week 10 (Dec. 1-5)
Length: 8-10 pages

Your Final Paper

You will submit a research paper that poses a Level-3 research question, describes at least two scholarly approaches to that question, evaluates the evidence and approaches of other scholars to that question, and advances one argument (with a clear thesis statement) as more convincing than the other(s) by: a) rebutting counter/alternative arguments or pointing out their weaknesses; or b) demonstrating the superiority of the argument you are advancing (your thesis).

The Final Paper should include (page references to Ann Raimés, *Keys for Writers* are included):

- An **introduction** to your topic (Raimés, 36-38)
- An explanation of the **problem/question** you are addressing (explicitly state your research question)
- Your **thesis** and **evidence** used to support it. Your thesis should be stated clearly and be easy for your TA to find. (Raimés, 18-22; 54-57)
- Paragraphs dedicated to the thorough explanation of each **scholarly interpretation** you included (argument, counter-argument(s)/alternative argument(s)) and the **evidence** used by scholars to support these arguments. (Raimés, 51-53; 57-59; 62-66)
- **Rebuttal(s)** or weakness of the above argument(s). This can also be an explanation about why you find one (set of) argument(s) most convincing over others. You will do this by analyzing the **evidence** used by scholars to reach their conclusions or by analyzing their conclusions directly. (Raimés 61-66; 121-122)
- **Evidence.** You are expected to include and analyze examples of the evidence used by the scholars in your paper. You should include (a) citation(s) (either direct quotations or proper paraphrases) from each of your sources listed in the Works Cited page.
- **Conclusion** and explanation of the **significance** of your topic/research. (Raimés, 38-39)
- **Works Cited Page** (no annotations)
- **Photocopies** of each page of text from which you cite and a photocopy of the title page of each source you list in your Works Cited page. You must label each page with the author's name and page number, and you must highlight the words/phrases you are citing.
- **Previous Work.** You must attach your graded RQAB and Prospectus and submit it with your Final Paper.

Sources

Your Final Paper must *cite* and *utilize* each of the minimum **six (6) required sources**, including:

- at least **1 primary source** (must have been produced during the course time period)
- at least **1 scholarly journal article**

Formatting Issues

Please consult the Model Prospectus, the MMW Style Sheet, and Raimés', *Keys for Writers* for specific MLA and formatting requirements. Deductions will apply to all MLA and formatting errors.

- Pay strict attention to proper MLA documentation (see Raimés or other MLA documentation manuals)
- Review the MMW Style Sheet handed out with the initial assignment or on-line
- See Raimés, *Keys for Writers* for help with making revisions, paper organization (66-68), paragraph construction, good writing style and mechanics

Plagiarism

Anytime and every time you use an author's words, ideas, or sentence structure, you **must** cite it – whether or not you are quoting the author directly or paraphrasing his/her work. Every time you use an author's exact words, you must put it in quotation marks and cite it. The overview of the writing assignment, handed out at the beginning of the quarter, has a full statement on MMW's statement on plagiarism. You are expected to have read and retained this information (see also Raimés, 127-129; 143-145)