

**Fourth Writing Assignment: Final Draft**  
MMW 15

**Length:** 8-10 pages

**Due:** Week 10, in section

Below is a list of the criteria your final draft should meet. Most important are the substantive aspects, such as the quality of your thesis and the appropriateness of your evidence, but the mechanical concerns—spelling, grammar, and so forth—also matter. You must also be very careful to give credit to all of your sources, even those you do not quote or paraphrase directly. Make sure that you check your final draft against both this handout and the MMW Program Policies.

**Your introductory paragraph(s) should include:**

An indication of your topic

The scholarly and historical context of your research (MMW 15: 1900-“present”)

The conceptual problem and question you are addressing

Your thesis statement

An indication of the significance of your topic and question (the “so what?”)

**Your question should be:**

Open-ended

Amenable to scholarly research

Appropriate to the course concerns and historical period covered in the course

**Your thesis should be:**

An answer to the question that you pose

Arguable

Amplly supported with evidence

**Your concluding paragraph(s) should:**

Summarize your argument

Reiterate and elaborate on your “so what?”

Explain the significance of your thesis

**When presenting your evidence you should:**

Explain *which* of your claims each piece of evidence supports

Explain *how* the evidence supports your claims

Acknowledge your sources clearly and correctly, whether you quote or paraphrase an author’s words or merely draw upon an author’s ideas

Use direct quotations sparingly and only when necessary

Make sure that all of the information you present is factually correct

**When addressing counterarguments or alternative interpretations you should:**

Acknowledge the scholars whose positions differ from yours

Explain how each counterargument differs from your own claims

Present the evidence that supports each counterargument

Rebut each counterargument (i.e., explain why your claims are stronger)

**Overall, your paper will succeed if you:**

- Clearly define the historical and geographical context of your topic
- Identify a conceptual problem that begs a question that can be answered with scholarship
- Situate yourself within an ongoing academic conversation
- Present a persuasively argued point that is amply supported with relevant evidence
- Acknowledge points of view other than your own
- Discuss the significance of your claims
- Organize your paper well and write with your readers’ needs in mind (e.g., by providing transitions and topic sentences to help readers to follow your train of reasoning, defining unfamiliar terms, providing vivid, concrete examples, and so forth)
- Check the MMW Program Policies Sheet for all formatting issues

Your final draft should be 8 to 10 pages in length, not counting your Works Cited list. Please use 12-point, Times Roman type, and make sure that your type is dark enough that your TA will actually be able to read it.

**What to submit with your Final Paper:**

**Handwritten and signed Statement of Academic Integrity.**

At the end of your Works Cited Page, you must **write (by hand)** the EXACT text below and sign (by hand) and date this statement. Your paper will NOT be accepted until this is completed.

“I attest that I am submitting my own original work in this assignment. Where I have included the words or ideas of others, I have cited this material according to the guidelines stated in the MMW Style Sheet and *A Writer’s Reference*.”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Works Cited**

Your paper must have a list of **Works Cited** that includes complete MLA-style citations for all of the works you cite in your paper. You do not have to include entries for works you do not cite, but bear in mind that “citation” means not only direct quotations and paraphrases but also all statements of observation and opinion that are in your own words but that are indebted to other authors for their content. In other words: when in doubt, give credit to your sources.

**Photocopies/Printouts**

You must **include a printout or photocopy of each piece** of information or analysis that you cite, **including the title page that includes the author’s name and title of publication**. On each of the photocopies/printouts, **highlight** the area(s) where you found the material that you cite in your paper, and **label each highlighted area with the number of the page** on which you cite the material.

**Portfolio of Previously-Graded Work**

When you turn in your final draft, you must also turn in a portfolio of all of the assignments you have completed this quarter, including all of the papers on which your TA has commented and the copies of your rough draft on which your peers have commented.

## Turnitin.Com

You must submit your final paper to Turnitin.com by mid-night of the day you submit it to your TA. Submission instructions will be provided in a separate handout.

**This assignment, like all assignments written for MMW, must adhere to all of the guidelines set out in the MMW Program Policies Sheet. This assignment, the last of four writing assignments, will be worth 15% of your final grade. You must have completed all four writing assignments in order to pass the course. Please consult with your TA if you are unsure what to include in your final folder. Good luck!**

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**Submission Checklist:** In order for your paper to be graded, you must submit all of the following. Your work will be considered late until each of these items have been submitted.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Eight to ten-page Final Paper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Signed Academic Integrity Statement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Works Cited page
- \_\_\_\_\_ Labeled and highlighted photocopies/printouts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Criteria for Evaluating Web Sources (if you used on-line sources)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Portfolio of your previously-graded work and ungraded rough drafts
- \_\_\_\_\_ Printed Grading Rubric
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turnitin.com Submission

## MMW Showcase:

Every year, in what we call the MMW Writing Showcase, the MMW Program honors the best papers written for the course during the preceding academic year. TAs who teach MMW12 through MMW 15 and MMW121 and 122 nominate students who they think have written papers demonstrating excellent scholarship on important and intriguing topics and who present clear and engaging writing. It is quite an accomplishment to be a Showcase honoree: of the more than four thousand papers written every year for MMW, fewer than one hundred are selected to be Showcase winners. That's higher than the top 5% in any given MMW class. The authors of these outstanding papers—the Showcase honorees—each receive a certificate that expresses our admiration for their work and attests to their achievement. Writers of the top papers are invited to participate in Eleanor Roosevelt College's Undergraduate Research Conference during the Spring Quarter. Winning a writing award is an excellent thing to be able to put on a graduate school application or resume. We look forward to reading your excellent work!