ENGL 217 African-American Literature
Fall 2017
Analytical Research Report

Dear Students,

This assignment provides you with a great opportunity to showcase your critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

The research paper is not a review of literature, a summary of literature, a reflection of literary, or your feeling about literature. Instead, it is an analysis of literature. An analysis refers to discovering the meaning, nature, and significance of literature by applying rigorous, logical, and detailed scrutiny, resulting in a consistent discussion of literary elements.

Analytical Research Report Style Requirements

The first step in successfully completing this assignment is to critically read and analyze literature and research material.

Adhere to these guidelines:

- Write a four to six page analysis (excluding Works Cited page)
- Follow MLA format for student research papers
- Write 75% of the paper contains your analysis and synthesis. Support your analysis with 25% primary and secondary sources through quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing.
- Use at least three different scholarly secondary sources obtained from the HACC Library. Note: No other sources are acceptable.
- Choose literature that appears in the required anthology but not on the course reading list. Note: The author may be on the list; not the literature.

Analytical Research Report Topics

Choose one of the following topics to complete your research paper.

1. Write an analysis of a current social justice movement, such as “Black Lives Matter,” and a social justice movement expressed in literature that appears in your anthology but does not appear on the course reading list. Analyze the similarities and differences of the fight for social justice and how literature has spurred change.

2. Write an analysis of a certain theme (or other element) that you find in the work of two or more poets who do not appear on the course reading list. It is probable that in your conclusion you will want to set the poets’ works side by side, comparing or contrasting them, and perhaps making some evaluation. Note: You must compose at least six pages of text. If you analyze some of the verses and include them in the analysis, your final paper will be longer.
3. Taking one focus of the course, reimaging imagination, analyze how three postmodern authors, **who do not appear on the course reading** list, present issues of race, politics, and economics. What is their view of the future of America? Explain how their premonition was correct or incorrect.

4. Analyze how different African-American communities have developed rigid codes of masculinity in three literary texts from your anthology, but **not on the course reading list**, that portrays stereotypical images of African-American men. Consider also the effects of personal identity. How have these images hurt the portrayal of African-American men in American society? Think about issues other than treatment by police or the legal system.

**Researching Literary Sources**

Sources are divided into two categories: primary and secondary.

Primary source—the literary source you are reading. For example: *The Norton Anthology of African-American Literature* is your primary source because it contains the literary work from which you are reading and thus writing your research paper.

Secondary source—the literary books, articles, and journals that you consult to support the paper/presentation.

Secondary sources are important because they give you a better understanding of what you’ve read so that you can analyze the work. However, in order for secondary sources to prove to be valuable, they must be reliable. Therefore, you must use sources available via the HACC library and databases.