

FINAL ESSAY GUIDELINES—HUMA 2920

The final stage in your research project for HUMA 2920 is the completion of a 10-12 page research essay. The essay should reflect the culmination of about 3 months of solid work, including the topic proposal and annotated bibliography assignments.

“Checklist” for final essay:

1. Your paper should be at least 10 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font (Times New Roman or similar), with 1” margins and only the left margin justified. The 10 page minimum is just that, a minimum; stopping at exactly 10 pages does not constitute completion of the assignment if a few additional pages are needed to fully make your argument.
2. Your paper should have a clear thesis and should follow up this central argument with well-supported and well-argued prose.
3. Your paper should be free of grammatical and spelling errors, typos, and other problems that would have been eliminated with a careful and thorough proofreading of the essay.
4. Your paper should have a title page with an original title (not “HUMA 2920 Final Paper” or other cringe-inducing, generic titles that suggest boredom before the reader has even started).
5. Your paper should be properly cited using the MLA or APA citation system (both are available online). Failure to cite sources properly constitutes plagiarism, a violation of York’s academic regulations.
6. Your paper should be carefully organized, with a clear introduction and conclusion and a paragraph structure that flows and reflects a logical ordering of ideas. Check carefully to eliminate any faulty paragraphs and to insure that your ideas are presented in a clear and coherent fashion.
7. Your paper should be analytical and argumentative in nature and not consist merely of excessive summaries of source material or general background information. One way to check if you have produced an essay that meets these requirements is to have someone to read the essay and then ask them the following question: “What was my major point?” If they cannot answer this question, consider revisions to increase the focus of your essay.
8. Your paper is due **Friday, April 4** in lecture. Late papers will be subject to a penalty.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask your tutorial leader for additional guidance. Good luck!!!