

Essay #2: Building a Scholarly Essay – Prompt, Due Dates

This essay can be focused on anything we discussed during the second and third units. In your essay, I want you to explore how media represents race in either the US or Canada. In particular, I want you consider if the media is harmful and/or helpful in its representations of race, and how these representations contribute to our understandings of ourselves and each other in everyday life?

You should consider how your examples, while entertainment, may impact society at large (for better or for worse). Other things that you might want to consider is how your primary sources reflect the attitudes of their given societies in both the past and the present, and whether they draw on familiar imagery to do so (i.e. whether your examples utilize a shared vocabulary that is recognizable to their audience). Further, you might want to consider how the media may be used to criticize the situation of different groups of people in the US or Canada.

Requirements: You must include the following sources:

- One of the assigned viewings for this unit;
- One outside primary source (i.e. a TV show; a film; a website; etc.);
- One of the assigned readings for these units;
- Two outside sources, one of which must be scholarly.
- Quotations/citations:** You must include quotations from your sources that will help demonstrate your interpretation of these sources, as well as strengthen your larger argument;
- You must include in-text citations for all of your information (whether or not you are directly quoting or paraphrasing).
- Page length:** 4 pages. double spaced, 1" margins, New Times Roman
- Works Cited:** in MLA style

Due dates: 1. First Draft: **March 10th (*new due date*)**

2. Online Responses to peers (Workshop Part A; see LEARN for template and instructions): **March 12th**
and In-Class Workshop: **March 13th**

3. Final Draft: **March 24th**

End-of-Week Inquiry #2

The basis of all academic research and communication is curiosity. These assignments are meant to give you space to explore the initial stages of this kind of curiosity, and the crafting of potential research questions that arise with it, in light of the primary and secondary materials that we will be looking at for each unit. This inquiry is slightly different, as it is a kind of brainstorming activity for the next essay. It is still due Saturday at 11:59 pm, and it is still between 400-500 words.

After reading the Essay #2 description and requirements (you can find this on the syllabus), reflect on something from our current unit related to "Race and the Media." Take three paragraphs to do the following: 1. Compose a paragraph that discusses something of interest from this unit that you would like to write about, and what readings/viewings/activities inspired you to want to further consider this interest; 2. Reflect on your initial reaction to these readings/viewings/activities, and how you think it inspired you to want to write about this topic; and 3. Consider how you might go about trying to look deeper into this interest (do you know of any sources that you want to include in your essay? How might they be helpful?).

This brainstorming activity could be a great opportunity to start thinking about your essay #2, but you may also find that you end up writing on something completely different, which is perfectly fine...

Virtual Workshop: Working with Sources

This workshop, which will require you to explore web and library resources, will take the informal research that you and your peers have conducted so far during the “Race and the Media” unit and attempt to ground it within scholarly material.

List of activities

1. Choose one of the group discussion posts to LEARN created so far during our unit “Race and the Media” (it can be one that were involved with or it can be from another group). Consider the source that was posted. Is it a credible and reliable source? Why or why not? Refer to UWaterloo's site (<https://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/infosources>), using one of the criteria in your answer. *Remember: a webpage *can* be a credible and reliable source based on *why* you are using it*
2. Research the information from the article by following these steps: a. Find another web source that corroborates or refutes this information; b. Find a scholarly journal article to reinforce your original source; c. Find a book that reinforces your original source. Although you do not need to read through each of these sources, try to get an idea of how they might relate to each other, and try to explain that connection in a few sentences.

Here is a list of databases that may be helpful in your search, although there are others that you may come across as well: <https://uwaterloo.ca/library/find-and-use-resources/research-databases/browse?&d=24>

UWaterloo has a guide to determine if something is “peer-reviewed” (scholarly): <https://uwaterloo.ca/library/find-and-use-resources/peer-reviewed-journals>

Remember, the categories listed on the website are suggestions that can help you determine whether or not something is part of a “scholarly conversation.” I would actually recommend disregarding the “Appearance” category for any web-based sources, but the rest of the categories could help you determine if something is indeed scholarly. Also, there are some (but not all!) databases that have a search limiter (for example, a box that you can check) specifically for “peer reviewed” or “scholarly” results.

*Tip: try Google Scholar (scholar.google.ca) as an *initial* search. There are many, many scholarly sources that emerge in this database, but be aware that not all sources that come up in Google Scholar are “scholarly” in the peer-reviewed, academic sense*

3. The sources that you researched so far can most likely be considered “secondary sources” (pre-existing writing about a concept, idea, or particular “text,” whether written or visual). Now, I want you to find *one primary source* (an original document like a film, video, fictional or journalistic writing, etc.) that relates in some way to the topic that you researched. This source can not be something that was assigned for class during this unit, but you can choose any kind of media as your “primary source.” Explain why you chose it.