

**Writing – ESLP 82
Fall 2008**

**Unit #4
Paper #2**

Due Date: Monday, November 24

Paper Description:

For your last paper in ESLP 82, you will write a 4-5 page double-spaced informative, research paper using MLA. Unlike Paper #1, this paper requires you to select, narrow, and conduct library research *by yourself*. If you need assistance, you can get help from your teacher or a librarian; however, you are expected to carry out your own research. Specifically, you will (1) select and narrow your topic, (2) pose a tentative research question, (3) locate sources that answer your research question from *multiple perspectives*, (3) read and take notes on your sources, (4) and then write a thesis-support essay that answers your question and uses at least 5 sources as evidence. This paper counts for 25% of your final grade for the course.

Paper Grading Criteria:

Your paper will be evaluated based on the answers to the questions:

Introduction

- How well is the topic defined and narrowed in the introduction?
- How well is the research question that paper answers stated in the introduction?
- How well does the writer's thesis statement answer the research question?
- How well does the thesis or blueprint statement organize the paper?

Body

- How well stated are the writer's main points via topic sentences at the start of paragraphs?
- How logical and *substantive* is the writer's thinking and support overall?
- How well does the writer incorporate sources to support main points (via paraphrase, etc.)?
- How effective is the organization *between* the paragraphs of the paper?
- How effective is the organization *within* the paragraphs of the paper?

Conclusion

- How well are the thesis statement and the main points summarized in the conclusion?
- How well does the writer open up on a larger issue or topic as a way to conclude the essay?

Overall

- How well does the writer use MLA (formatting, in-text citations, Works Cited sheet)?
- How well does the writer use the conventions of grammar covered in the course?
- How well does the writer employ the conventions of spelling, punctuation, and word choices?