

MMW3, Spring 2008
Second Writing Assignment:
Research Log #2 and Five Research Questions

Length: 2-5 pages

Due date: Tuesday, April 15, or Wednesday, April 16, in section

Now that you have done some preliminary reading on a few topics, your next step will be to formulate research questions. Continue to read new sources on your topics, recording complete citation information for each source and taking notes on its content. As with the first assignment, you should concentrate your research on scholarly books and journal articles, relevant primary texts, articles in specialized encyclopedias, and scholarly sources that are available in electronic form. You may also consult websites and generalized encyclopedias, but they will not count toward the five-source minimum for this assignment. Remember to photocopy (or print out, if you are using electronic sources) any material you plan to cite.

The assignment:

- **Type up a research log containing at least five entries, one for each new source that you've read.** Each entry should include: a complete MLA-format citation; an indication of the topic addressed in the source; at least a few sentences summarizing the source's content and main argument; and at least a few interesting facts or issues presented in the source. *Note: As with research log #1, you must include sources on at least two different topics.*
- **Photocopy the title page (or first page, for a scholarly article) of each source that you cite.** When you submit your research log you must submit these photocopies as well. If you quote or paraphrase any of your sources, please also submit a photocopy of the page(s) to which you refer, labeled with the source's title and author.
- Based on what you have discovered in your preliminary research, **formulate five different level-three research questions**, on at least two different topics, that you will be able to address with library research and on which you might be interested in working. (*Note: this means five questions total, not five questions on each topic.*) The topics of your research questions must be the same as the topics addressed in the sources you cite in your research log.
- **Type up your research questions.** Each question should be no more than one sentence long. Follow each question with at least a few additional sentences that explain which of your research findings led you to ask it, and why you think it might be worth pursuing.

Note that this assignment asks you only for questions. You do not have to—in fact, you should not—propose any answers to these questions; it's too early in the research process for you to be able to formulate any hypotheses. Here is a helpful rule of thumb: if you already know, or can already guess, the answers to your questions, you are not asking very good questions.

This assignment, the second of six writing assignments, will be worth 3% of your final grade. You must complete all six writing assignments in order to pass MMW3. Remember to keep the graded copy of this assignment; you will be required to turn in a portfolio containing all of the assignments at the end of the quarter.