This is the final paper you will write this quarter. I am giving you these instructions now so that you can see where we are headed. The requirements will be explained in detail later in the quarter, after we have done other work to prepare for this.

Write a 2,500 – 3,500 word paper (7 – 10 pages) defending a thesis that is the answer to your research question, using outside sources and documenting them according to MLA rules.

The topic is your choice. (You may be required to include some reference to an assigned essay that everyone will read. I will let you know.)

The grade for the paper will be the average of the grades on each of the following nine criteria, using the 4.0 scale, where 4=A, 3=B and so on.

Both the rough draft and the final draft will be graded using these criteria. You must attach the rough draft with my comments to the final draft, or I will assign the same grade to the final draft that the rough draft received.

Thesis (T)
- Arguable
- Descriptive
- Unified
- Specific to scope of paper
- Answers the research question

Evidence (E)
- Sufficient
- Relevant
- Representative

Quantity and Type of Sources (Q)
- Minimum of 8 sources
  - Minimum of 3 scholarly sources
  - Minimum of 5 sources from one of the approved library research databases
- Reference works do not count (they may be used)
- No textbooks
- Sources are adequate and appropriate to topic

Use of Sources (U)
- Summaries as needed
- Paraphrases as needed
- Quotations as needed
- Critiques as needed
Reasoning (R)
- Terms are defined
- How conclusions follow from evidence is explained
- Assumptions are valid; conclusions follow from evidence

Organization (O)
- Material is grouped appropriately
  - Organized point by point, not source by source
- Focus is maintained throughout
- Transitions are effective, including introduction and conclusion
- Relationships among ideas are clear

Language (L)
- Most of the paper is in your own words
- Occasional completely accurate quotations, with correct punctuation and grammar
- The mechanics (punctuation, spelling and grammar) of the rest of the paper are correct
- The style is objective, formal, concise, precise and varied

MLA documentation (M)
- correct in-text citations
- complete and correct bibliography, listing only those sources you have used in your paper at the end of the essay (MLA style).