

FR335U term paper: requirements

Sources:

- 3-5 sources of good quality (scholarly journals, books). Three is the minimum.
- All sources are to be listed in the bibliography.

Length:

- Approximately 1500 words (not including bibliography)

Format:

- 1-inch margins, 12-point font
- Double-spaced (not single or 1-½ spaces)
- Pages **MUST** be numbered
- Use footnotes (bottom of page), not endnotes
- Use MLA guidelines for documenting your sources (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>).

Caution: do not wait until the day your paper is due to learn about MLA format.

Due date: Friday, June 7

- Provide a **hard copy** (no electronic submissions); double-sided printing encouraged.
- If you want your paper returned, also provide a stamped, addressed envelope.
- If you submit by 5:00 pm, turn it in to the WLL office, NH491.
- If you submit after 5:00 pm, slide it under my office door (NH451-G).

Documentation:

You must attribute any ideas or statements, either quoted directly or paraphrased, by providing the source and the page number. Failure to do so is plagiarism. The use of plagiarized material will result in a grade of “zero” for this assignment.

Bibliography:

- The bibliography should be formatted according to MLA guidelines.
- Do it now!** The bibliography is the last component of your paper, but it doesn't have to be the last thing you prepare: put it together before you finish the paper, and then insert any additional sources as needed. This saves you the trouble of having to complete a fairly mechanical task at the end of a laborious process.

Title:

Give your paper a descriptive title that accurately represents the content. The title is the first thing a reader sees; it can make a bad impression or a good impression. It should be concise. If it has some interest, all the better.

Expectations for writing:

- Your writing should be clear, with proper punctuation, correct word-usage, and without sentence fragments or run-on sentences.
- Before turning in your paper, let it rest, and let yourself rest. Then re-read it, correct errors and change wording as necessary to improve clarity.
- Do not try to put too many ideas in one sentence: this often leads to confusion on the part of the reader. A single sentence cannot bear too much weight: if you have multiple ideas, distribute them over multiple, linked sentences.
- “Make the paragraph the unit of composition: one paragraph to each topic” (Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*).
- The research and writing of this paper is to be your own work. You are not allowed to engage the services of a term-paper writer or a professional editor. If you need help with your writing, I strongly urge you to make use of the services of the PSU **writing center** (Cramer 188, 725-3570; <http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu/>). Anyone who makes use of the services of the Writing Center may ask for and will be granted an extension on the due date for their paper.

Content:

- All research is the attempt to answer a research question** or questions. The question/s may change during the course of your research, as you learn more about your topic, as you learn what information is available and what information is not available. While your final question may not be entirely clear before you write your paper, the question and your answer to it should emerge during the writing process.
- A certain amount of background information will be necessary at various points throughout your paper, in order to provide a context for the question/s. This is particularly true at the beginning, when you introduce your topic.
- You may use different strategies for presenting the results of your research. Some writers will want to incorporate the questions as they go along, using them to engage the reader in the process of finding out about the topic, as you did: “Why did Napoleon III fail to achieve his aim of developing resources for Algeria’s indigenous populations?” Others may want to present the material as a story told to the reader: “The story of Napoleon III’s goal to help Algeria’s indigenous populations is one of failed intentions and bitter colonial realities.”