

Research Paper Assignment

The research paper is a portfolio project on Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* or *Through the Looking Glass*. Instead of an assigned topic, you will develop your own research question for this exercise.

You are free to use any critical perspective you like, so long as you are consistent in your approach and defend your major claims with textual evidence. You will also need to demonstrate not just a familiarity with your critical sources but also an awareness of the critical methods they employ. At the end of this exercise, you will have demonstrated an awareness of basic critical methods and used one method conscientiously in your own writing on a major literary text.

Requirements

- Your essay should be 7-pages (2,250 words) long. Attach a list of works cited to your essay.
- Use five or more peer-reviewed critical sources. Two of these must be recent (less than ten years old). The other three may be from any time. Critical sources include full-length scholarly journal articles, chapters in an anthology, or chapters in a book.
 - What *not* to use:
 - Summaries of *secondary* sources are called *tertiary* articles, and we do not cite them in scholarly writing. These include encyclopedia articles, dictionary entries, critical reviews, and bibliographic essays. Find the original secondary source instead.
 - Short published essays, usually 1-5 pages, are called *notes*. These are different from a scholarly article because their brevity means they cannot articulate a critical argument.

Portfolio Elements and Due Dates

- **April 10. Research Question Draft.** Bring to class two printed copies of a 1-page research question. What question will your essay try to answer? You do not need to have an answer for it yet, so think instead about what you hope to get out of exploring that question; explain why you think it matters to our interpretation of the text. Be as specific as possible. In class, we will do a peer-review exercise to help you think about ways to refine your research question.

- **April 19.** *Research Proposal.* Turn in a 2-page research proposal. This should include a statement of your research question, why that question matters, and a statement of how you think you will answer it. Attach a 1-page “annotated bibliography.” This is a bibliography of 5 potential research sources with a 1-sentence note on each about its relevance to your research question.
- **April 22, 24, 26.** *Student Conferences.* Students meet individually with Prof. Logan to discuss their research proposals. A conference schedule will be arranged during class time, so there will be no scheduled lessons that week. Instead, students are expected to use the time working on their research paper and following up on the outcome of their meeting with Prof. Logan.
- **May 2, 3:00 pm.** *Research paper.* Turn in two versions of your completed research paper with works cited. (1) Leave a printed copy in Prof. Logan’s mailbox, in the mailroom opposite the Anderson elevators on the 10th floor, by 3pm. (2) Upload an electronic copy to Canvas by 3pm.