

Essay 2 Rubric and Expectations

The Research Paper is valued at 30 points out of your potential 100 for the semester. Here is the breakdown of what counts and how much!

Formatting: _____ / 7 pts

- Compliance with the **Seven Point Plan** as laid out in your syllabus, including **title, page numbers**, meeting the minimum page count (**EIGHT FULL PAGES**), and requisite information (name, date, course & section number). Also, make sure that the project is formatted appropriately (Times New Roman, Size-12 font, one-inch margins, double-spaced, and without an extra space after individual paragraphs).
- Make sure that you have submitted (or been present for workshops and conferences for) all drafts, and that you have done so on time. (**Potential deduction of five points for each unsubmitted draft, and deduction of two points per day for late drafts** without an excuse)
- Try to keep your project as polished as possible, and commensurate with the expectations of a work written in your academic voice (minimal grammatical mistakes, no contractions/second person pronouns, and general effort to make the projects ideas progress logically and with appropriate transitions). **Potential to lose up to five points.**

Content: _____ / 23 pts

The above 23 points are comprised of the following elements:

Thesis _____ / 3 pts

- The central argument is clearly delineated (with some variation on “In what follows, I will/intend to...”)
- The argument is specific, and more direct than simply highlighting that there are racial points of interest in the series under investigation
- The statement (and the introduction it is a part of) effectively lays out the trajectory of the project as a whole.
 - o How will you conduct your investigation?
 - o What are you arguing, and...
 - o How will you do so?

Research ____ / 10 pts

- The project demonstrates effective usage of the sources being brought under consideration
- When appropriate, the project provides appropriate historical/social context for its claims
- The project quotes and interrogates its sources to substantiate the points being made
- Quotes are not simply dropped into paragraphs without indication of who said them and in what context
- The project demonstrates that the student has really *read* the source, and not simply picked out quotes that seem to fit the project
- Project avoids relying on stating what the student him/herself “thought,” or “felt”. This is a research project and not a reaction paper. Any statements about the student’s own reactions should be backed up by extensive evidence and textual support.
- Project generally avoids making unsubstantiated claims about what “could” or “seems” to be the case, without making extensive effort to provide evidence to substantiate those assumptions.
- The project does not take things like stereotypes as “common sense”. The student’s work endeavors to search out possible origins and contexts for the stereotypes in question, and investigates them in relation to both/either a Japanese cultural context and/or an American one.
- Only five sources are *needed*, but the superior project:
 - o Demonstrates genuine familiarity with all five of them (without relying on one or two and just “padding” with the others)
 - o Does not hesitate to go beyond the five source minimum to find as much information as necessary to substantiate all claims being made in the project.

Reading the text ____ / 7 pts

- This is not just a close reading project, but you may find that incorporating elements of a close-reading approach may be helpful towards the ends of making the project *work*.
- To that end, you will be expected to be as detailed as possible in this regard
- Remember to also include a working synopsis of the anime series that you will be investigating.
- Make sure that the synopsis and the readings of the scenes are corroborated/supported by the inclusion of evidence and elements from your sources.

Sources ____ / 3 pts

- The student’s project should have at *least* the five sources listed in the prompt (two readings from the course library; one scholarly journal article from JSTOR, ProQuest, ProjectMUSE, etc.; one book from Strozier/Coleman/Leon Country Library; and one source of the student’s choosing). Five is the minimum, but a superior project might go beyond that.
- The essay appropriately utilizes MLA style parenthetical citation (see pgs 267-268, and 272 in your McGraw Hill-Handbook or the Purdue Owl website):

- For a book work, note that the citation comes after the closing quotation mark, but before the period, with no comma separating the author's last name and the page number. As an example: "Appropriate MLA citation style is not that difficult" (Brickler 17).
- For a TV series or website without an author, make sure that you have referenced the source earlier in the sentence. As an example: As we see in season one, episode one of *Black Lagoon*, both Dutch and Revy refer to Rock as "Mr. Japanese" when they first meet him.
- The essay uses appropriate MLA style formatting for the bibliography as well (**NOTE THAT THE BIBLIOGRAPHY DOES NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE EIGHT PAGE MINIMUM**)
 - As indicated in class, the bibliography should be *alphabetized* by the authors' last names.
 - For books: Last name, first name. *Title*. Place of publication: Publisher, Year. Print. (Take note of the punctuation and formatting)
 - For articles: Last name, first name. "Title of article". *Name of the Journal* Volume number.Issue number (Year): Page numbers. Database. Web. Date accessed.
 - For notes on blog entries and online sources, see pages 291-293 of the McGraw-Hill Handbook.