

# Final Paper Suggestions

As we progress to the final stages of the paper, recall that so far, we have discussed:

- What makes a good thesis topic?
- How do we find good sources and evidence?

As we progress to the draft stage, the focus is on the last couple of course goals

- develop arguable and defensible thesis statements
- integrate appropriate evidence to support argumentative claims

I've left the overall structure open, but if you would like some suggestions, here is a good place to look (from Purdue):

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general\\_writing/academic\\_writing/establishing\\_arguments/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/establishing_arguments/index.html)

There are three suggested structures given in the link- It's your choice; these are meant to be guides for you. Don't forget to list your references.

## Here is the information provided earlier about the paper:

For the long-form project, you will explore a topic of your choosing that is relevant to the class.

- Your topic should be thesis-driven and evidence-supported.
- You should incorporate at least one of the sources from the class readings as well as at least two 'outside' sources.
- You'll be keeping a journal of what you're doing for the paper (see below)
- Your final essay should be between 1750 and 2250 words in length (double spaced).

Process Deadlines:

1. Meet in the library, HW on library skills. Feb 26 (part of Week 6 assignment)
2. Preliminary Meetings with me: March 5-10
3. Topic: due March 12, 3 points
4. Source Lists and Journal Check due April 9, 3 points
5. Thesis, rough draft and journal due April 16, 8 points
6. Journal and draft (round 2), due Apr 23, 8 points
7. Full draft for peer editing due April 30, 8 points
8. Individual meetings between Apr 30 and May 7
9. Final Paper is due May 16

Grading:

- Interim Documents and deadlines: items 3-7, 30 points total
- Final Paper: 20 points

Breakdown of the final paper components:

- Grammar and Mechanics: 3 points
- Strength of Thesis Statement and Argument: 7 points
- Accuracy, Brevity, and Clarity of Presentation: 7 points
- Incorporation and Citation of Outside Sources: 3 Points

Information about the Journal:

Keep a journal of what you're doing each day. This includes what you're thinking about in terms of the structure and content of the paper. Keep track of questions that come up as you write, and especially what sources you're using as you go. There are two purposes for this document: (1) Makes it easier for you to put down the paper and pick it up again later, and (2) it provides you with documentation of your process (very important). Extra help: The Center for Writing and Speaking (COWS) is located in Olin 191. Drop in if you would like to get assistance with your writing (or come visit me)