

Research Essay

A research essay of about **2500 - 3000 words (10 - 12 pages)** on a CRS topic of your choice will be an opportunity to pursue a specific area of interest. This paper should reflect a serious effort at literature research, including consultation of a number of books and journal articles in the CR field, ***in addition*** to the texts of this course. Evaluation will be based on substantive content, level of *relevant* research, integration of/response to the ideas of other writers, organization and clarity of writing, accuracy and style. Integration of class work and research is highly desirable. Your paper should have an INTRODUCTION which states your ***purpose (what you're going to do, and why)***, as well as any necessary background information (brief), a MAIN BODY wherein you will develop your topic, a concise SUMMARY, and a CONCLUSION. (In an academic paper, you should "say what you're going to do, do it, and then reflect on what you just did".)

There should also be a properly formatted **reference section**, that conforms to either APA or MLA publication standards. Your list of references from the internet should be **less than one in four** (under 25% of the total).

Proposal: A two-page (500 word) research proposal must be submitted by the due date shown below. This is intended to get you started on your essay, and allow me to offer comments or suggestions. Your proposal should include:

- a brief introduction to your topic,
- a purpose: what are you setting out to do, why is this topic of interest to you, and how do you intend to do it, and
- a suggested list of references from where your research material will come (specific books, articles, etc.).

Note: The work you do on your proposal should be incorporated into your research paper. In other words, if done appropriately, it will become the foundation for your essay - not "extra" work!

Due Dates: proposal = see your syllabus;
completed paper = see your syllabus

Topic Ideas (to help you get started)		
Conflict Resolution across Cultures (E.g. individualist vs. collectivist cultures)	Youth Justice Reform (E.g. Sentencing Circles in New Zealand and/or North America)	Anything from the examples on the Group Presentation handout, as long as <u>your</u> group did not do it!
History of the Restorative Justice Movement	Retributive versus Restorative Justice	Current Peace Negotiations Between Israel and Palestinians
Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution	The Peacekeeping Role of the United Nations	India-Pakistan Partition
Peer Mediation in Schools -or- Violence in Schools	Globalization of Economics & Trade as a social justice issue	Conflict response of any of: Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Paulo Freire, Christ
Conflict Resolution & Social Justice	Global Warming	Colombian "Drug Wars"
Violent V.S. Non-violent Action	Can War be Justified?	American presence in Iraq
Global Warming versus Development of energy resources	Women's fight to get the vote	USA-CDN trade wars (eg. softwood lumber or 'mad cow')
Faith Communities & Conflict	Same-Sex Marriage	A specific conflict within a Local Church