

Eng. 2: Unit 3: Buffy Paper (300 pts.)

Paper w/ draft and research for peer review: Thurs., April 5

Final version: Tues., April 10

You will write a 1,500-word argumentative paper examining a vampire-related topic of your choice as long as it includes at least one *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* citation from an episode assigned as part of our class.



It is up to you to select your own topic and come up with an argument about it that is supported by research. You can't recycle an argument or a passage you've used before, but you can use a passage from any handout or class reading, including *Dracula*, as long as you have not used this passage in a previous essay or paper.

This paper will have a total of five sources:

- 1) Passages from two scholarly sources that you have found through the Bakersfield College library.
- 2) A description of a scene in *Buffy*, but if your paper centers on the series, you can use two scenes from the series. You are required to turn in your notes from the *Buffy* episodes with the scene or scenes highlighted that you chose to cite.
- 3) A passage or passages from one or two other sources that you choose from the class readings or handouts.

You may use only brief citations from these sources, with each citation only one complete sentence. Additional sources can't be used in this paper.

This is your chance to make an argument about anything vampire-related. All we ask is that it be supported by research and include at least one *Buffy* citation.

While your paper should include a thesis that takes a stand within the first few paragraphs, it also should include a counter-argument that reflects critical thinking. Try to go beyond the obvious when you consider possible connections. Use the HIT formula and start with a creative beginning, since we encourage creative beginnings that take an innovative approach to your topic.

The most challenging part of this assignment is thinking about possible connections between scholarly sources found through the BC library, the assigned readings, and the episodes. Students should find the library research and select the readings carefully before deciding their topic and thesis. Keep an open mind since it is the research or passages that you select, and not your personal opinion, that determines a thesis in an academic paper.

The best way to approach this paper is to carefully review your notes from the episodes, readings, and class discussion and write down possible ideas, connections, and counter-arguments before heading to the library. Consider possible key words to search for as you look for scholarly articles. You should discuss sources as examples that briefly illustrate your thesis and counter-argument. While a brief summation may be needed, citing only key ideas avoids restating all the facts you have read.

BC library research: For your research, the two scholarly sources may include a scholarly peer-reviewed article found through the library's online databases, a specialized encyclopedia, a book, a book on reserve, or an e-book. You should not use articles (even ones that appear in peer-reviewed journals) that are opinion pieces with no bibliographic references at the end, such as a first-person column or story, an unsigned editorial, definitions from encyclopedias, a letter to the editor, or a book or movie review. You also should not cite abstracts or extremely short, "research-lite" sources. Your scholarly peer-reviewed source must come from the BC library; sources found elsewhere are not acceptable.

Draft: You are required to write at least one complete draft of your paper that shows substantial corrections you have made on it as a result of editing and proofing. Your draft can be handwritten or typed. Your revised version should be typed in 12-pt. Times in MLA format. It should include an original title and a Works Cited

page as part of the document. For both due dates, the revised draft(s) and typed version should be turned in together in an envelope at the start of class.

Late work costs you points: Following peer review, the final version should be submitted to Turnitin by 12:30 p.m. on the date due. Late work loses points (refer to late work policies in Class Guidelines).

In-text citations: You should use a total of five brief citations or one citation per source. Two citations should be paraphrases and the other three citations should be quotes. Introduce your source by title and author with a signal phrase that explains what the article is about before you quote from it. Paraphrases and quotes should be used in context for accuracy. When you do quote or paraphrase, each citation should be no longer than one sentence.

Using only quotes, using fewer or more citations, not using signal phrases, or using citations longer than a brief sentence will cost you points since most of your paper should reflect your thinking and analysis.

Required research that you turn in with drafts and the paper:

1) For each of the two BC library scholarly sources:

- A copy of the first page and relevant pages of each article or source with the passages you are citing highlighted so we can find these easily. Each source should have only one passage highlighted.
- The citation of your source as printed from the BC library's database. Please note that this is not the MLA citation, but the bibliographic information for your source as it appears in the library. (By the way, some of the suggested MLA formats found at the end of online articles are incorrect. Double-check your MLA format using the recommended MLA guide.)

2) From *Buffy*:

- Notes from the series with the scene or scenes you wish to cite highlighted so we can find it.

3) From two other sources from any of this semester's class readings or handouts:

- You should turn in a copy of the relevant pages of each reading or handout with the passage you are citing highlighted so we can find your paraphrase or quote easily. You may use a passage from any class reading or handout as long as you have not used this passage before in an essay or paper.

Peer Review: You will have the chance to revise your work following peer review of your research and paper before turning it in to us and to Turnitin. For peer review, please bring the corrected draft of your paper, a typed copy of your revised paper, and the required research in a large envelope.

Length: Papers that exceed 1,550 words or that are less than 1,500 words, not counting the Works Cited page, lose points.

MLA: We recommend using Barbara Fister's *Quick Reference: Working With Sources: Using MLA, Eighth Edition Style* published by Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016. ISBN: 9781319088354.

Plagiarism: Papers with plagiarism may result in a failing grade on the assignment and being reported to BC administration.

Need Help?: See Brian Melgar, our intrepid Eng 2 class tutor. He survived Eng 2 and can offer you valuable research and writing tips.