

Short Essay

(650 words)

Important Dates:

Class creates Lopez research card: **Thurs., Sept. 17.**

Peer Review of research cards and essay: **Tues., Sept. 22.**

Research cards, photocopies, drafts, and essay you submitted to Turnitin due in envelope: **Thurs., Sept. 24.**

Essay returned w/ suggestions: **Tues., Oct. 13.**

Revised essay due (and resubmit it to Turnitin): **Thurs., Oct. 15.**

Revised essays returned: **Tues., Oct. 27, and Wed., Oct. 28.** (This happens in student conferences.)

This assignment helps prepare you for Eng 1A by teaching you how to use two sources in a short, argumentative essay. Your assigned sources are the first half (preface-159) of *The Soloist* by Steve Lopez and one of the articles of the week (either AoW 1 or AoW 2). The book and one of these articles are the only two sources you can use for this assignment, so no other research should be completed.

Your thesis or argument should address this question:

Should police arrest people who are homeless or who are panhandling? Why or why not?

Your argument will be determined by the passages you select from the book and from the article. In college papers, it is research—and not your opinion—that determines your argument. We will discuss ideas and possible approaches in class.

This assignment should help you learn the steps required for your final paper. These steps include:

- The research process, which involves creating research cards from sources and using these to write a draft of your essay.
- Using the HIT formula with creative beginnings that hook the reader (or the HIT formula: Hook, Information, and Thesis).
- Writing a clear thesis statement that includes a reason explaining why or why not.
- Using transitions to connect ideas.
- Introducing sources with signal phrases before discussing them.
- Making logical arguments.
- Using accurate quotes and paraphrases.
- Drafts, peer review, and revising.
- Using basic MLA formats correctly.
- How to use Word for MLA formats, how to use Turnitin, and how to include a word count.

In-text Citations and a Works Cited page

You will have a total of three in-text citations:

- A one-sentence quote with page citations from one chapter of the book.
- A one-sentence quote with page citations from a different chapter of the book.
- A one-sentence paraphrase from the AoW article you choose.

You will learn how to use these citations in context and in MLA format. The final page of your paper will be a Works Cited page that includes both sources in MLA format. We will go over all of these formats in class.

Research Cards

You will learn how to create research cards and write a draft essay. You will photocopy your pages from the two different chapters in Lopez and highlight the sentence you intend to quote on each page. You also will highlight the passage you will use from an AoW. This helps me check the accuracy of your quotes quickly.

Writing Tips

1) Do not repeat the question above and then answer it. Instead, write a creative beginning. Your first sentence

or two should capture the reader's attention. **You will use an approach that we will practice (Hook, Information, and Thesis or HIT) to start your essay.** State your thesis or argument that addresses the question clearly by the end of your second paragraph.

2) **Introduce *The Soloist* with a signal phrase that includes the author and title along with a brief summary of what the book is about.** Use a transition to the section you wish to quote. Always introduce and explain a source before quoting or paraphrasing from it. Keep all references to the book in one section of your paper and your reference to the photo in another section. Use a transition to connect ideas between these two sources.

3) **Introduce the article with a signal phrase that includes the author and title along with a brief summary of what the story is about.** Use a transition to the section you wish to quote. Always introduce and explain a source before quoting or paraphrasing from it. Keep all references to the article in one section of your paper and your reference to the book in another section. Use a transition to connect ideas between these two sources.

4) Use quotes and paraphrases as instructed. **Place quotes and paraphrases in context by attributing statements to the person speaking and to the book or article, too.** If Lopez is quoting someone else, attribute the quote to that person and to the book. For the quote to make sense, you should explain briefly what led to the statement.

5) Check each in-text citation from the book to ensure you have included a page in parenthesis after each one. Not including a page citation is a form of plagiarism.

6) Write in the third person (no "me," "myself," "I," "in my opinion," "we," "our," "your," or "you").

7) Write first and correct later. Print a rough draft of your essay and read it out loud. **Write all of your corrections on the draft.** Try to improve the essay's organization, transitions between ideas, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Check for fragments and run-on sentences and correct these. Make sure your argument is logical and presented well. Use a spellchecker, Hacker, and a dictionary to look for errors. Using your corrected draft as your guide, revise your paper on the computer. Print this and turn in both the corrected draft and your final version.

8) Include a Works Cited Page as your last page in your paper. This should list your sources in MLA format. Refer to the various "How to Format Your Paper in Microsoft Word" examples on the class website for proper formatting of your paper.

9) After you finish the essay, give your paper a creative title that ties in with your thesis or argument.

10) The word count is 650 words, not including the Works Cited page. Short papers (under 600 words) or those exceeding 700 words can lose points.

11) Need help? Take this assignment and your essay and discuss it with someone at the Writing Center or go and sign up to see a peer tutor on a regular basis. Make an appointment so you do not have to wait.

MLA Format

Your essay should be typed using MLA format. Use only black ink, 12-point Times or Times Roman Font. Double-space on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with one-inch margins. Include a Works Cited page as your final page. No cover sheet should be used. Staple the paper together in the top left-hand corner. We will go over this format several times before this essay is due.

We Help Each Other

Your peers will offer suggestions (and so will I) before your essay is due. You also have the opportunity to revise it for additional points. Please ask questions in class as we work on this assignment.