

## **First-Year Seminar (Wilson Section)**

*Research Paper and Presentation Assignment Summary (Revised 11/13/19)*

(Research Paper due by 8:00 a.m. on Friday, December 6; Presentations begin on November 22.)

**Research Paper:** Papers are due as Word documents in email attachments to me by Friday, December 6, by 8:00 a.m. Late papers will be penalized one grade per hour after the deadline. The research paper is to be 15-20 pages long if double-spaced; half that if single-spaced (your choice). The citation style is scientific: in-text citations and a references cited section at the end. The Research Paper Assessment Sheet is reproduced for your convenience on the back of this page. The style you use in your paper is your choice, as long as you meet the categories in the assessment sheet and follow our referencing format. There is an example FYS research paper on our website.

**Presentation:** The presentations are scheduled for the last two weeks or so. Each presentation is to be about ten minutes long, followed by a five-minute question-and-answer period. Each presentation is to be accompanied by a PowerPoint (or equivalent) slide show. Please arrive ten minutes early to class so that we can load the presentation from a thumbdrive and make certain it works. Please show your respect for your fellow classmates by arriving to class on time and asking questions when appropriate. Your participation as an audience member is as important as your presentation.

Good luck!



## **Research Paper Assessment Sheet**

(First-Year Seminar, Wilson Section)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Organization of paper:**

Title (*clear, concise, informative*): 1 2 3 4 (circle one)

Abstract (*effective summary of the paper's thesis, evidence and conclusions*): 1 2 3 4

Introduction (*provides context and purpose for the paper*): 1 2 3 4

Summary (*the paper's primary points are briefly restated*): 1 2 3 4

### **Content of paper:**

Importance and interest of the topic is clear: 1 2 3 4

Useful new insights (*additional ideas the writer introduces*): 1 2 3 4

Citation of sources (*all borrowed ideas and words adequately cited*): 1 2 3 4

Use of figures (*clear illustrations which help the reader understand the material*): 1 2 3 4

Logical flow (*it is easy to follow the points of the paper through the prose*): 1 2 3 4

Topic adequately covered: 1 2 3 4

### **Format and Other Issues:**

Proper format followed (*meets the requirements outlined in our style guide*): 1 2 3 4

Spelling & Grammar (*proper punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, etc.*): 1 2 3 4

**(Additional comments are made on the paper itself. Note that categories are weighted by point numbers.)**

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_ (48 points is the highest possible)

**LETTER GRADE:** \_\_\_\_\_

(The letter grade is not a direct result of the numerical total; it also includes effective use of content and rhetoric.)

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### **Rubric scoring key:**

- 4 Virtually no problems in this area.
- 3 Some problems, but they do not detract from the readability of the text.
- 2 A sufficient number of problems so that the reader has difficulty understanding the writer.
- 1 So many problems that the readability of the text is severely undermined.