

The Research Paper

Write a research paper of a minimum of 1,800 words on any topic related to theme of this course, “New York’s (Immigrant) Communities and Movements.” If you wish to write a paper about another subject, you are welcome to do so. All topics should be discussed with the professor during student conferences or appointments *in advance of submitting your drafts*.

In writing your paper, you must identify *a problem, question, or controversy* within your topic area that requires you to develop *a thesis statement or argument* supported by your own critical thinking, as evinced by your writing. Use the introduction of your paper to engage your reader and articulate your research problem, developing the reader’s interest while stating your thesis or main argument. The body of your paper should respond to your research question or problem, and will aim to persuade the reader of your thesis, through your analysis and use of evidence from multiple sources. You are required to integrate *at least three (or more) sources* into your research paper; at least *two* of these sources must be academic sources from peer-reviewed articles or books. When selecting and engaging sources, the following maxim is useful: Choose *quality* over quantity.

- **Step 1: Posting about two potential research topics to the course blog (300 words), due Wednesday, September 27, by 12pm (noon)**

We began to draft this in class. Write a 300 word post that explores two potential research topics that interest you, questions that emerge around these topics, and the research methods and data you would use to answer these questions. See [Blogging About Potential Research Topics](#) for more details.

- **Step 2: Paper sketch or storyboard (300 words), due Monday, October 16, in class**

This assignment asks you to write at least 300 words to outline your research problem and the organization of your paper. You may wish to create a visual map or storyboard. Remember to integrate any feedback you received from your peers and professor into your sketch or storyboard. See [Research Paper Sketch / Storyboard](#) for more details.

- **Step 3: Archival document response (500 words), Friday, October 27, by 12pm (noon)**

In this blog post, you will describe and analyze two documents selected during our Monday visit to the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives. Your post should draw connections between the two documents you have chosen. If you plan to use one or both documents in your paper, discuss why and how you will use each source. For instructions on this response, see [Crafting Your Archival Document Response](#).

- **Step 4: Annotated bibliography (400-600 words), due Monday, October 30, in class**

Choose four potential sources for your paper and create a citation for each source using the MLA 8 format. Provide a brief descriptive summary and evaluation of each source (100-150 words each, for a total of 400-600 words). See [Annotated Bibliography How-To](#) for more details.

- **Step 5: Draft #1 (900-1200 words), due Monday, November 6th, in class**

Post your first draft to the course blog ahead of peer review the week of November 6. This might be an incomplete draft - but you should have enough that I can substantially comment on your work thus far. We will explore writing strategies and have time for writing in class on October 23rd and 30th (Draft #1), followed by a peer review and a conference with me about your draft on November 6th.

- **Step 6: Draft #2 (1800 words), Monday November 20, in class**

The second draft is due in Google Docs, and should be a complete paper that engages and documents your sources. Bring at least two printed copies of your paper to class for peer review. We will do peer editing in-class; we will also have a conference about your second draft on November 27. This will be your final opportunity to get feedback from me before the final paper deadline.

- **Step 7: Final Draft & Reflection, due Monday, December 4, in class**

The final draft is due by the end of class on Monday, December 4th. You will draft in class a short reflection on your writing process. You will revise and post your reflective statement to the course blog by Friday, December 8th.

An important note: Final papers and reflections CANNOT be accepted after December 8th.