

RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT

by Warren J. Blumenfeld

The purpose of the Research Paper Assignment is to provide students the opportunity to delve deeply into an area of interest within the larger topic of Queer Studies. The assignment may be conducted using one of the following two options:

1. Choose a topic in the field of LGBT/Queer Studies, and investigate written materials such as books, journal articles, the internet, original documents, etc. This paper will be at least 10 pages (not including References section), will provide an in-depth investigation of the topic, and will include a critical analysis of the area under investigation.
This paper is not a reflection of personal experiences or personal history, but rather, it is a research paper. Topics could include, for example:
 - a. A Genre of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender Literature, for example:
 - i. Lesbian Pulp Fiction
 - ii. Contemporary LGBT Novels
 - iii. Early LGBT Novels
 - iv. Historical Novels
 - v. “Underground” Novels
 - vi. Poetry
 - b. The Homophile Movement
 - i. The Mattachine Society
 - ii. The Daughters of Bilitis
 - c. LGBT people under the Nazi Regime
 - d. The Early German Homosexual Emancipation Movement
 - e. The Eugenics Movement and Treatment of Homosexuals
 - f. The Gay Liberation Movement, or Gay Activists Alliance, or Radical Lesbians, etc.
 - g. AIDS Activism
 - h. Women’s Music Festivals
 - i. A Religious Denomination of Your Choice and Its Position on LGBT People
 - j. The Political Right and Its Stance(s) on LGBT Rights
 - k. LGBT Visibility/Invisibility in the Popular Media
 - l. A Current Cultural/Political Issue from a Number of Perspectives, for example:
 - i. Same-Sex Marriage
 - ii. Same-Sex Adoption
 - iii. Military Inclusion of LGBT People
 - iv. 2008 Presidential Campaign and LGBTQ Issues
 - m. Transgender Issues and Activism
 - n. Intersexuality
 - o. Profile of a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender Personality—Current or Past
 - p. Overview of “Queer Theory”
 - q. Comparison and Contrasting of LGBT Studies and Queer Studies
 - r. The Status of LGBT/Queer Studies in the U.S.
 - s. Issues around Homophobia/Heterosexism/Biphobia/Transphobia
 - t. A Profile on a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender National or Local Organization, for example:
 - i. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
 - ii. Human Rights Campaign

- iii. Lambda Legal
- iv. Gender Pac
- u. Queering an Aspect of Popular Culture or Literature In Depth
- v. Another Topic of Your Choice

Please prepare a short written description of your proposed topic before you begin your project. Your Professor needs to approve your study before you proceed.

2. Choose a focus in LGBT/Queer Studies, and conduct interviews or distribute research surveys. *This paper is not a reflection of personal experiences or personal history, but rather, it is a research paper.* Your research topic could include, for example:
 - a. Interview Students’ Opinions of Same-Sex Marriage or a Proposed Constitutional Amendment Banning Same-Sex Marriage
 - b. Interview Students’ Opinions of Military Inclusion of LGBT People
 - c. Interview LGBTQ Students’ Opinions of the Use of the Word “Queer” in Organizations, Studies Courses, or as a Description of Identity
 - d. Interview Students’ Suggestions for Making the Your Campus a More Welcoming and Supportive Campus for People of All Sexual and Gender Identities
 - e. Interview LGBTQ Individuals’ Experiences with Discrimination and/or Harassment on your campus or in other areas of their lives.

If you choose this option, you should review some of the current published studies on a similar area of research. After you have conducted your research, you can compare and contrast your results with the research that has already been published in that area of investigation.

If you are interviewing, you should interview at least eight individuals. If you are using research surveys, you should receive back at least 30 survey questionnaires for your study.

Please prepare your research questions or your research survey before you begin your project. Your professor needs to approve your questions or survey before you proceed with your study.

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The Term Paper Research Assignment is worth a possible 30 points. This assignment will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>CRITERIA</u>
27–30	Followed assignment format closely. Covered all points required in the assignment. Outstanding degree of <u>detail, clarity, thoughtfulness, effort, and critical analysis</u> put into the assignment.
24–26	Followed assignment format rather closely. Covered most points required in the assignment. The assignment shows above-average <u>detail, clarity, thoughtfulness, effort, and critical analysis</u> .
21–23	Did not follow assignment format closely, and/or did not cover many points required in the assignment, and/or did not cover the points in sufficient detail. The assignment shows some weakness in the area of <u>detail, clarity, thoughtfulness, critical analysis</u> , and/or simply average <u>effort</u> given.
18–20	Did not follow assignment format, and/or did not cover many points required in the assignment, and/or did not cover the points in sufficient <u>detail</u> . Below average <u>effort</u> was put into the assignment. It lacks <u>clarity</u> and does not illustrate much <u>thoughtfulness</u> or <u>critical analysis</u> .
0–17	The assignment was either not completed; minimal <u>effort</u> was put into the assignment; it lacked <u>clarity, thoughtfulness, and/or critical analysis</u> , or it was completed too late.

If you would like someone to look over all or a portion of your Term Paper Research Assignment before you turn it in, you could ask other students in your class to review it for clarity, completeness, critical analysis, and to offer any suggestions for changes. This cooperative form of exchange could offer you some great feedback.