

HSB4U major project, Step 3 (worth 9% of final grade)

Due: June 5th, 2018

The Essay: Deadlines

- You are encouraged to submit sections of your paper (one at a time) to be assessed. The sooner you do this, the better assessment you can get.
- **Final draft, submitted by June 5th (beginning of class) on TurnItIn *and* in paper.**

You will hand in:

- **A formal essay, including:**
 - **Title page** with appropriate information
 - **An abstract.** See below.
 - **The essay** – 6-8 pages (1500-2000) words
 - MLA-format Works Cited *or* APA-format **Reference List** – see previous handouts for guidelines on sources, but Perdue OWL is your best source of APA and MLA formatting (Google search Perdue OWL MLA or Perdue OWL APA)

What is an **abstract**:

- A synonym might be *synopsis*.
- This is a 100-200 word summary of your essay that addresses the following main points:
 - Statement of the problem / research question / issue you are addressing.
 - Statement of the research you have done to address this problem / question / issue.
 - Your results / findings.
 - Main conclusions or recommendations.
- This may be followed by a short list of key words (like online 'tags') that someone would use to locate your essay by theme, topic, etc.
- The abstract may be similar in content to your introductory paragraph.
- The abstract is printed on its own page, to be placed after the title page and before the essay.
- See pp 383-385 in Text



CSI and moral authority: The police and science

GRAY CAVENDER, Arizona State University, USA
SARAH K. DEUTSCH, University of Wisconsin, USA

Abstract

Since it first aired in 2000, *CSI* has consistently been among the top-rated television programs in the United States. In this article, we analyze *CSI*'s debut season and also include observations about the program today as well as its two spin-offs: *CSI:NY* and *CSI: Miami*. We are interested in the cultural meanings conveyed in this very popular forensic crime drama, especially in terms of the moral authority of the police and of science. We consider how *CSI* uses the conventions of the crime genre to assert the police as a moral authority. We also demonstrate how *CSI* portrays a sense of forensic realism, and, in so doing, asserts the veracity of science. We conclude with a discussion of what these meanings suggest about the legitimacy of policing and of science.

Example:

What makes a good *social science* research essay?

RESEARCH

- Your research and knowledge of the topic is sufficient to talk intelligently about the issues in your essay.
- Your knowledge of the topic is relevant to the hypothesis you state in the essay.
- When you use statistics, data and facts, it is clear that you understand what they mean and how they are significant and relevant to your argument(s).
- You have used a sufficient amount of relevant research to provide context to your argument.

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

- Essay begins with a quality introductory paragraph:
 - Opens with a hook (Get the reader's attention)
 - States hypothesis (What am I trying to explore?)
 - Summary of main points / arguments / questions the essay addresses (How will I prove this?)
- The body of essay is clearly divided into main points / arguments.
- Concluding paragraph:
 - Summarizes main points (What did I say?)
 - Indicates how the hypothesis was (dis)proven (Was I right? How?)
 - Discusses the implications of the essay's findings (Who cares?)
 - Makes suggestions for future research (How could someone build on my research?)

ARGUMENTATION

- There is a clear hypothesis, which is:
 - Clear and concise
 - Controversial; can reasonably be argued against
 - Sufficiently narrow in scope
 - Requires research to be determined
- All main points clearly support / test your hypothesis.
- All evidence, proofs, and examples are relevant to the main points and hypothesis.
 - Level 4 essays will show some original thought (your own ideas) and synthesis (your own way of combining someone else's ideas); they will also successfully use counterpoints in arguments.

SOURCES & REFERENCING

- A minimum of 9 sources are **used**, including 3 general reference, 3 specific, and 3 scholarly. At least 3 of these should be in print or electronic copies of a print source (e-books, online periodicals). In other words, not simply a website.
- Sources are high quality – this means that blogs, yahoo answers, personal websites, and essay mills are no good. If you can't find the author or the organization distributing it isn't reputable, it's probably not worth using.
- All citations are made in MLA or APA parenthetical form.
 - MLA: (Jones 64) (“An Introduction to Media”)
 - APA: e.g. (Jones, 1994) (*3 Reasons Why*, 2007)

- The reference list is on a separate page and is formatted according to MLA OR APA guidelines. Again, Check Purdue University's OWL website.

LANGUAGE

- Minimize mechanical errors (spelling, punctuation, grammar) by using SpellCheck in your word processor. MS Word also includes a GrammarCheck option – this may also help you.
- Everything should be written in a formal style – no 1st person, is not conversational, uses appropriate social science terminology. Terminology is used in a precise manner – know the meaning!
- Sentences and paragraphs should flow together naturally. Vary the types of conjunctions you use and use linking sentences to transition between paragraphs. Level 3 and 4 essays will also show variation in sentence structure (complex, compound, simple, quotation introductions, subject placement).
- If you are using APA formatting, you may use headings (centered and bolded)

There are more tips on structuring a social science research paper on p. 383-5 of the textbook.