

THRA 312 – The History of Dress and Décor – Spring 2009

Research Paper Requirements and Rubric

Your assignment is to write a 10-14 page (2500-3500 words) research paper on the history, clothing, and living environment of a selected non-western culture. This should be presented in a typed, double spaced, 1-inch margined, 12 point, easily readable font format.

You are expected to state the purpose, introduction, body, and conclusion of your research paper clearly and comprehensively. You should make your writing clear, which means thorough organization, varied sentence structure, rich word choice, correct grammar, spelling and proper transitions. You must also apply the rules of qualitative source citations. This is all in addition to the thoughtful and accurate presentation of the research itself.

Don't loose heart if that scared you. It seems so horrifying only at first glance. Once you examine these points closely, you will see they are manageable.

1. Introduction

The introduction should be attention grabbing and impressive enough to induce me to read further on. It should be clear and concise and show relevance to the topic.

2. Body of the Research Paper

The body of your research paper should be a smooth continuation of the introduction and should have the same rhythm, pace, and tone. Take care in constructing your paragraphs. Remember that each paragraph of the body should focus on one main idea and develop it in several supporting sentences. Make sure that all paragraphs are concise, logically arranged and that there are no repetitions.

3. Content of Your Research Paper

The content should have a balanced presentation of relevant and accurate information that clearly supports the topic and a thoughtful, in-depth analysis of the research. It should cover the three areas of (1) general historical overview, (2) dress and (3) decor in approximately equal proportion (that is to say approximately 750 – 1000 words apiece). Since some of the cultures have a very long recorded history you may focus the paper on a specific era which seems to you to best represent that culture. In the case of cultures which are limited in written sources you may give a more generalized overview. Feel free to include pictures to illustrate your descriptions.

4. Clarity of Writing

Your writing should be clear and concise and avoid distractions that can leave you side-tracked. Stick to the main research paper ideas and develop them in logical succession.

A variety of thoughtful transitions are necessary in good writing. Keep in mind that transitions should clearly show how your ideas are connected. It is important that your ideas flow smoothly from one to another and are clearly linked to each other so that I can follow your line of reasoning. Sentences must be well-phrased and varied in length and structure. Remember that word choice is of particular importance in any research paper. Therefore, go beyond the generic to find more precise, effective and meaningful words.

It goes without saying that you should not make grammar or spelling mistakes. Numerous mistakes in your paper persuade me that you put little effort into it. Don't depend solely on spell-check. Proofread! Read the paper aloud to yourself (or anyone who will listen) to catch awkward phrases, transitions or poorly presented thoughts.

5. Conclusion

I look for succinct and precise conclusions that are based on the review of the research and reveal appropriate insights into the topic. Do not forget to check whether your conclusions are strongly supported within the paper.

6. Use of References

The references in your research paper require special attention. Sources should be cited when referenced in the body of the paper in MLA format (check the Winthrop Writing Center online for info). A complete and properly formatted bibliography of both printed and electronic sources should be included at the end of the paper (in addition to the 10-14 page body).

In order to support your ideas in the paper, you should look for compelling evidence from professionally legitimate sources. Make sure that the information you refer to in your research paper can be trusted. Do not forget to double-check your list of references for mistakes.

Research Paper Rubric.

	<u>Exceeds Expectations</u>	<u>Meets Expectations</u>	<u>Does Not Meet Expectations</u>	<u>Score</u>
<u>Introduction</u>	Effective introduction	Adequate introduction	Weak or missing introduction	/8
<u>Factual Information</u>	All information correct	Most information correct	Little or no information correct	/25
<u>Discussion/Detail</u>	Excellent discussion/detail	Adequate discussion/detail	Vague/shallow discussion/detail	/25
<u>Conclusion</u>	Effective conclusion	Adequate conclusion	Weak or missing conclusion	/8
<u>Organization</u>	Clear organization	Adequate organization	Confusing or weak organization	/15
<u>Mechanics</u>	Smooth transitions, Correct grammar; no spelling mistakes	Adequate transitions Correct grammar; few spelling mistakes	Awkward or missing transitions; Incorrect grammar; many spelling mistakes	/4
<u>Sources</u>	Excellent variety of sources; excellent use of relevant materials; Correctly credits references	Adequate number of sources; adequate use of relevant materials; Correctly credits references	Inadequate number of sources; inadequate use of relevant materials; Incorrectly credits references or credits missing	/15
			TOTAL SCORE	/100