

Dr. Cothran  
CRTW Research Paper

For this assignment, you will need to write

- a) a 5-7 page research paper (that includes quotes from at least 2 sources) and
- b) a 1-2 page evaluation of your writing process.
- c) With the paper, you should include an annotated bibliography that lists four research sources. Only two of these sources should be “online” sources; the other two should come from scholarly texts or journals.

A

For your research paper, you’ll need to focus on one of the controversial issues addressed by Fukuyama in his text. Think out your own opinion on this issue. For prewriting purposes, go around the circle of elements and through the standards with your own thoughts, the question at issue being, “What is my opinion about this issue?”

Once you’ve chosen (and thought about) what you plan to discuss, do some research and begin writing your paper. Your essay should do three things:

- 1) Briefly summarize Fukuyama’s stance on the issue, using quotes and paraphrases where appropriate. This summary must be **completely objective**.
- 2) Present a thesis which articulates your views on the issue
- 3) Address or include at least **two outside sources**, using correct MLA format for quoting and/or paraphrasing. (For prewriting purposes, you might want to go around the circle of elements and through the standards with your sources.) Use your sources to back you up or to argue against.

You’re not required to use each and every element and standard when speaking of your sources and your own opinion, **but your paper must go beyond simply arguing your case—you’ve got to be evaluating the merits of the stance you have chosen in a precise, logical, and sophisticated manner.**

Suggestion: The more specific you get with the issue, the easier this assignment may be. For instance, instead of trying to cover what Fukuyama says about the whole subject of genetic engineering, you might look at what he says about Bt corn or Roundup Ready soybeans.

B

After you have written the essay, evaluate the thesis you chose. How did your point of view affect the conclusions you wished to present? What impediments did you have that kept you from looking at the issue in an alternate light? What assumptions did you have that affected your reading and research?

C

An annotated bibliography is a Works Cited page that presents a short paragraph after each MLA citation of each source. This paragraph should be objective, summarizing the key points (the fundamental and powerful concepts) of the source. The paragraph proves to me that you read and understood the piece.