Mrs. Graves

English II: British Literature

Paper 3

**Research Paper**

            For your research paper assignment, you will produce a historical academic research paper on one of the Bible translations from the given list. The thesis should be supported by the various viewpoints of your sources. Your paper should have a clear introduction with a strong thesis statement, a well-developed body, and a significant conclusion. An effective research paper integrates information from multiple sources into a clear, unified essay.

**Translation Options:** King James Version, English Standard Version, New International Version, Geneva Bible, Wycliffe’s Bible, Coverdale Bible, or Tyndale Bible

**General Guidelines:**

1. Length: 3-4 pages (not including the Works-Cited page)
2. 3-5 Sources from your research
3. Create a Works-Cited page for your sources
4. Use In-Text Citations in the MLA format (use the Diana Hacker Website)

**Due Dates:**

1. Works-Cited: Tuesday, 9 October
2. Rough Draft (bring 2 copies): Friday, 12 October
3. Revised Rough Draft (bring 1 copy): Friday, 19 October
4. Final Draft: Tuesday, 23 October (with rough drafts and rubric)

**Outline:**

1. Introduction: Overview of the translation + Thesis: Why was it written?
2. Body: Historical context, Unique features of the translation (how it was translated), and Effects of the translation (all should include the main idea: why was it written?)
3. Conclusion: Review points and the significance of the translation.

An excellent research paper must reveal that the writer is operating on all levels of thinking:

1. **Knowledge**: You have a sound knowledge base of topic (facts, stats, quotes). Your paper must go beyond this level. Otherwise, it’s just a report. [Overview]
2. **Understanding**: For example, if you are describing a problem, you would explain the causes leading up to the problem. [Historical Context]
3. **Application**: This is an upper level thinking skill. For example, explaining an author’s background to what he writes, or a director’s life to what his film reveals. [Historical Context—Features—Effects]
4. **Analysis**: This is where you pick apart points in your paper. You will explain “why.” For example, explain why many girls don’t go into math and science related careers. [Why?]
5. **Synthesis**: This word means the actual creation of something new. For example, propose a solution to a problem you’ve been discussing. [Why?]
6. **Evaluation**: This is the highest level of thinking; you’ll give conclusion that you have reached from your analysis. For example, are cures for certain diseases realistic, too costly, etc? [Conclusion]

**Owl Purdue Research Papers** <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/02/>

**What it is**: A research paper is the culmination and final product of an involved process of research, critical thinking, source evaluation, organization, and composition. It is, perhaps, helpful to think of the research paper as a living thing, which grows and changes as the student explores, interprets, and evaluates sources related to a specific topic*. Primary and secondary sources are the heart of a research paper, and provide its nourishment; without the support of and interaction with these sources, the research paper would morph into a different genre of writing* (e.g., an encyclopedic article). The research paper serves not only to further the field in which it is written, but also to provide the student with an exceptional opportunity to increase her knowledge in that field. It is also possible to identify a research paper by what it is not.

**What it is not**: A research paper is not simply an informed summary of a topic by means of primary and secondary sources. It is neither a book report nor an opinion piece nor an expository essay consisting solely of one's interpretation of a text nor an overview of a particular topic. Instead, it is a genre that requires one to spend time investigating and evaluating sources with the intent to offer interpretations of the texts, and not unconscious regurgitations of those sources. *The goal of a research paper is not to inform the reader what others have to say about a topic, but to draw on what others have to say about a topic and engage the sources in order to thoughtfully offer a unique perspective on the issue at hand.* This is accomplished through two major types of research papers.

**Analytical research paper**: The analytical research paper often begins with the student asking a question (a.k.a. a research question) on which he has taken no stance. Such a paper is often an exercise in exploration and evaluation. For example, perhaps one is interested in the Old English poem Beowulf. He has read the poem intently and desires to offer a fresh reading of the poem to the academic community.

His question may be as follows.

How should one interpret the poem Beowulf?

His research may lead him to the following conclusion.

Beowulf is a poem whose purpose it was to serve as an exemplum of heterodoxy for tenth- and eleventh-century monastic communities.

Though his topic may be debatable and controversial, it is not the student's intent to persuade the audience that his ideas are right while those of others are wrong. Instead, his goal is to offer a critical interpretation of primary and secondary sources throughout the paper--sources that should, ultimately, buttress his particular analysis of the topic. The following is an example of what his thesis statement may look like once he has completed his research.

Though Beowulf is often read as a poem that recounts the heroism and supernatural exploits of the protagonist Beowulf, it may also be read as a poem that served as an exemplum of heterodoxy for tenth- and eleventh-century monastic communities found in the Danelaw.

This statement does not negate the traditional readings of Beowulf; instead, it offers a fresh and detailed reading of the poem that will be supported by the student's research.

*It is typically not until the student has begun the writing process that his thesis statement begins to take solid form.* In fact, the thesis statement in an analytical paper is often more fluid than the thesis in an argumentative paper. Such is one of the benefits of approaching the topic without a predetermined stance.

**\*Argumentative Research Paper—removed**