

Theatre 317 Research Summary Assignment

The Research Summary is a way for you to get to know the research tools available to you at the library as well as a means of familiarizing yourself with the style and conventions of formal writing and MLA formatting. You will choose a topic (play, playwright, era, etc.) in theatre history before 1800 and find one specific source that covers that topic. You will write a summary of the contents of that source, citing your work correctly and providing a properly formatted MLA Works Cited page. The summary should be double-spaced and between 800 and 1200 words in length.

I don't want you to summarize an entire book. For this assignment, "source" means either a single chapter in a book, or an article in a book that is a compilation of articles by separate authors. You may NOT use any electronic resources for this exercise. I want you to get familiar with the library card catalog and the act of physically putting your hands on a book. **You are required to find me in the library (3rd floor, south side somewhere) on "Library Day" (as indicated in the course calendar) between 9 a.m. and noon to check your source with me.**

This paper does NOT need to contain your opinion or any kind of original thought. You are simply to provide a report of the factual subject matter and arguments presented in the source. You should, however, write the summary with the awareness that you're summarizing an article. The opening paragraph should overview the argument or arc of the article/chapter and should include the author's name, the title of the article/chapter, and the publication title and date in which the article/chapter appeared. The closing paragraph should summarize and re-state the argument and arc of the article/chapter.

Your paper must contain at least one example of each of the following:

1. The restatement in your own words of ideas, concepts, and facts presented by the author, correctly cited using parenthetical citations.
2. One direct quote from the source that flows with the grammar of your own sentence. The quote should be correctly cited using parenthetical citations MUST reflect the author's unique voice or turn of phrase.
3. One direct quote, correctly cited using parenthetical citations, from the source that uses the author's name in the setup to the quote. Again, the quote should be correctly cited using parenthetical citations and MUST reflect the author's unique voice or turn of phrase.
4. One direct quote, correctly cited using parenthetical citations, that would run longer than four typed lines of text in normal formatting, thus requiring special formatting. Again, the quote should be correctly cited using parenthetical citations and should reflect the author's unique voice or turn of phrase.

Due Date: Your Research Summary should be e-mailed to me (attached Microsoft Word document) before the start of class on the date indicated in the course calendar. The assignment will be graded on your ability to write clearly, concisely summarize the main facts and arguments of the source, and correctly cite all of your work. The Research Summary will be worth 60 points.

Rewrite: You are REQUIRED to rewrite your Research Summary, making corrections and edits based on my written feedback. The rewritten Research Summary will be due one week from the date that you receive the original Research Summary back from me. The rewrite should take into account ALL of my notes, suggestions, and corrections, and will be worth 25 points.