

Visual Culture Assignment Sheet—Research Paper

1. The research paper is due week 10 at the beginning of class. **PLEASE SUBMIT TWO COPIES OF YOUR PAPER.**
2. The research paper should address a topic of interest in visual cultural studies. Papers should address a specific, focused question or area of interest; general research topics are not acceptable. Students are encouraged to take a position and/or make an argument in their papers.
3. Research papers will succeed or fail based on the quality of the materials referenced. **WIKEPEDIA IS NOT A CITABLE SOURCE**, although students may use it as a reference point to begin their investigation. Students are also **STRONGLY** discouraged from citing reference sites, such as dictionary.com. Additionally, although assigned readings are a place to begin researching, your textbook is not an acceptable source.
4. Research papers should be a minimum of 8 pages long; images and cover pages do not count toward the total page length; images should be included at the end of the essay, and should be correctly documented and referenced in the essay.
5. Research papers must include a correctly-formatted bibliography and sources **MUST** be cited in-text. Papers missing in-text citations or a bibliography will receive a failing grade.

Grading: this paper will be graded on the following:

1. Spelling, composition, formatting (margins, font size, etc.) and grammar.
2. Content of the paper: how interesting and thorough are the research and the discussion?
3. Quality of the argument and the conclusions drawn based on your research, class discussion and your interpretation of the assigned readings.
4. Does the essay include a bibliography and correctly formatted in-text citations?
5. Was the essay submitted on time and does it meet assignment requirements?
6. Does the essay reference high-quality, reliable sources and is it adequately researched?