

University Writing
Assignment: Trend Analysis Research Paper

Course Outcomes: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, 3d
(See syllabus for specific outcomes)

Assignment Description: For this assignment, you will research and analyze a current cultural trend. You will prove the trend exists, analyze causes of the trend, make a convincing case for a particular cause(s), refute counter causal arguments, consider the effects of the trend on the culture, and consider solutions (if appropriate).

Assignment Requirements:

1. The first step is to conduct a primary/secondary source search based on your tentative topic to see if you can find enough research material. Once you have done that, create your assignment proposal. Submit a one-page typed proposal that includes the following:

- One paragraph explaining identification and choice of trend
- One paragraph explaining hunches regarding causes/effects
- One paragraph explaining preliminary research plan:
 - Where will you look for information (be specific)?
 - Where might you look for primary source information?
- One paragraph outlining obstacles you anticipate and how those will be addressed.

Proposal Due Date: _____

2. The second step is to research your topic. Once you have found at least 7 quality and credible sources that will be of help to you, print them out or check them out from the library. Prepare your annotated bibliography using MLA format. You must include a minimum of 7 different, credible sources.

Annotated Bibliography Due Date: _____

3. Begin reading through each of your sources, and take accurate notes. Try to use a combination of paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting as you go. Label each note card, as shown in class, with the source, subject, and page number. Create at least 50-75 note cards.

Note Cards Due Date: _____

4. Prepare your 7-10 page trend analysis and works cited page in MLA format. Submit final paper to turnitin.com, and print a digital receipt.

First Draft Due Date: _____

Second Draft Due Date: _____

Final Draft Due Date: _____ (with TII receipt)

Assignment Organization:

- Cover page
- Introduction: Presentation of Trend
 - Attention Getter: Introduce engagingly
 - Bridge: Provide existence of trend through anecdotes, statistics, and details
 - Thesis: Identify both the trend and the main reason or reasons for the existences of the trend
- History and Current Status of Trend
- Causes of the Trend
 - Include the presentation of the causes in an effective order
 - Provide evidence in support of each cause
 - Anticipate counter arguments and refute them
- Effects of the Trend on Culture
- Possible Solutions (if applicable)
- Conclusion:
 - Restate Thesis
 - Clincher

Assignment Format: The final copy should be in 12 point Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins, and double spaced. You will need to include a cover page as well in MLA format. The paper should adhere to MLA conventions and be written in third person. Document your sources using internal citation in accordance with MLA format, and include a works cited page in MLA format.

Questions to Ask Yourself While Drafting:

- Have I mentioned only one or two causes when I should be accounting for several?
- Have I mistakenly assumed that something that occurred prior to the beginning of the trend was therefore a cause?
- How can I be sure not to confuse causes with effects? Sometimes effects can be sustaining the causes of a trend, but if that is so, I should acknowledge it as such. Are any of my causes **also** results?
- How can I show readers that I have accepted the burden of proof? I must offer proof for all my assertions and not assume the reader will understand or make connections.
- How can I refute counter arguments without ridiculing their proponents?

Please note: Most trends cannot be explained definitively; they must be argued as logically and plausibly as possible. Avoid obvious or predictable causes.

Points Possible: 200