

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINAL EXERCISES

To cut down on your workload for this class, and to allow you to focus on the research, writing, and revision of your term paper, you may now choose **two out of the following three options** and submit them by the last day of class:

- The final **three response papers**: these short reflection essays of approximately two pages should offer a mix of anecdote, brief analysis of one or more of our readings, and personal reflection. They should delight and provoke your reader through well-polished prose and carefully-considered ideas.
- The **fourth short exercise**: demonstrate knowledge of **APA, Chicago, and MLA style guides**, the basics of which you can find through resources like Purdue's Online Writing Lab (OWL), by preparing a brief two-page essay on a topic of your choice (or condensed from your term paper), and submit it in **APA, Chicago, and MLA** format. This means you will be submitting three separate documents at one. Staple the individual essays and then paperclip the three together so they don't get lost.

Your sample essay should include quotations from at least three different kinds of sources, and at least one block quote. The content does not matter much; you can even repurpose something you wrote for another class.

At the top of each document, please note in pen or pencil which style you are using. Since each style guide specifies different rules for headers, running headers, title pages, margins, citation format and style, bibliographies, and other parameters, you will need to follow each manual precisely.

- The **fifth short exercise**: condense your term paper into a letter to the editor of 100-200 words you might submit to the editor of a newspaper, such as the Albuquerque Journal, the New York Times, or the Wall Street Journal. This is distinct from writing an abstract or summary of your project because you must respond to a recent op-ed or news item and very quickly explain where the author is wrong and show why you think so, providing many details succinctly. The article you respond to should be from 2026—the more recent the better.

According to the New York Times, "Letters should preferably be 150 to 175 words, should refer to an article that has appeared within the last seven days, and must include the writer's address and phone numbers." You should examine several days' worth of opinion pages of whatever newspaper you decide to respond to in order to get a sense of the task. The opinion pages are usually the last pages of the A section in most newspapers.

Be sure to note the word count somewhere in your document.