

Kate Schnur
Pedagogy and Place — Teaching Resource Draft

English 130

Essay 2 — Research Essay

(6-7 Pages)

While your last essay asked you to build a sense of place (and of Queens) based on your analysis of a novel, short story, or poem, this assignment asks you to further develop this essay through independent research into the borough of Queens and the neighborhood depicted in the text you chose in essay 1.

Your research paper should develop a revised thesis from essay 1 and an extension of your essay into a longer, research-supported literary analysis.

For this option, your thesis, body paragraphs, and claims will still primarily circulate around close readings (revised from essay 1 and new) of your literary text. Your research will help you answer any or all of the following questions in your essay:

1. How does the author draw upon the history of their neighborhood in their writing?
2. How does the author draw upon the politics of their neighborhood in their writing?
3. How does the author draw upon the institutions (businesses, landmarks, nonprofits, government infrastructure)?

Your paper should incorporate **five outside sources**. **Two** of your sources should be peer-reviewed. **Two** of your sources should come from a reliable outlet but need not be peer-reviewed. **One** source should be one of the history of Queens texts in unit 2 of our syllabus.

A reminder that these are the readings from unit 2 that you can use in this essay:

Jeffrey Kroessler, *Rural County, Urban Borough*

Lawrence R. Samuel, *Queens*

Claudia Gryvatz Copquin, *The Neighborhoods of Queens*

You can use your essay 1 organization as a skeleton for this essay's organization. You may also decide to cut some of the scenes you analyzed in essay 1 in order to focus on another scene for longer or on an entirely different scene. **You can copy and paste from essay 1, but be sure to take into account comments you received from drafting and after submitting that essay.**

Be sure to remember two things as you are writing:

1. **This essay belongs to you, not to your research:** This essay should still be your argument and focus on your analysis. Be sure to use the first person while writing ("I"), write a thesis statement that is about what you see happening in the literature and the research, and write topic sentences that are about your claims, not summaries or quotations from your sources.

2. This essay is about connecting literature to research in other disciplines: When you move from one source to another, be sure to explain why and how you are moving between sources.

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