
Research Essay 3 Cover Letter Deadline & Requirements

In a self-reflective and self-evaluative Cover Letter address the following criteria in any order that makes the best sense to you:

- a) How you chose your topic and narrowed the focus of that topic
- b) Your research process, including any challenges or breakthroughs you experienced
- c) How you framed your essay's argument and thesis by using lens text sources to provide a lens or frame: these can course readings or sources from your research
- d) How your evolving Thesis developed, changed, evolved in complexity, etc.
- e) Whether or not, and how well/much, Roadmaps, organizational handouts, PRELIMS, and various workshops helped you develop & revise your Organizational Strategy for your argument—and what the argument strategy is that you chose for your essay.
- f) The Motive you tried to communicate to readers, and HOW/HOW WELL you conveyed why readers should care, what's at stake, the consequences, etc.
- g) What overall Stance you attempted to convey about your focus, and how you positioned yourself in relation to your audience of readers.
- h) How you developed a Counterargument & Refutation, and how doing so helped strengthen your argument, stance, motive, argument, argument strategy, etc.
- i) How you used Rhetorical Structural Moves (RSMs) to manage and analyze sources & add complexity to your argument—which RSMs did you find particularly useful?
- j) What conclusions do you leave readers with (solutions, implications, etc.)
- k) Lastly, and perhaps most importantly (and be especially reflective & soul-searching about this: What have you learned about writing, research, argument, and your own writing process, and yourself as a writer in this essay & from a semester in EXPO?

Your letter does not need to follow the above order, but you should touch on the criteria in an order that best communicates *mature, serious, genuine & authentic* reflection about researching, writing, & revising this essay AND what you recognize as your overall development into a more critical reader, thinker, researcher, and writer in Expository Writing.

Write your Cover Letter a day or two after submitting your Research Essay. I recommend reading your revised essay again beforehand. You can submit a Cover Letter as late as Monday, May 1st.