

# Cardinal Compositions

University of Louisville

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## **ENGL 102: Research Paper**

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*Cardinal Compositions*, vol. 5 (2021), pp. 67-69.

### **Corresponding Essay**

- Perkins, Ariel. "Black Language, Social Identity, and the 'Gap.'" *Cardinal Compositions*, 2020-2021 issue, pp. 44-48.

**Assignment 4: Research Paper (25%)**

Mon., Nov. 23	First Draft Due (at least 900 words; peer review instructions will be in a class announcement)
Thurs., Dec. 3	Final Draft Due (7-10 full pages)

Background

You have already done much of the work for this research paper. You have identified a topic, synthesized scholarship related to this topic, and thought about what you want to add to the conversation. Now is your chance to narrow down the topic from something broad into a concise research question that you will then explore and/or answer. Utilize the work you've done up until this point and compose your research paper.

Assignment

You will write a 7-10 page research paper that critically analyzes and synthesizes secondary and (perhaps) primary sources in order to address your research question. Instead of making a classical argument, which oftentimes involves persuading an audience to adopt your stance/position on a given issue, your research paper will be more analytical and nuanced. For instance, you may choose to: analyze how certain aspects of identity are foregrounded within a given primary source (Young and Lu do some of this work), discover a gap in theoretical research on multilingual writing that scholars have not yet considered (Matsuda), consider how monolingual ideology impacts students' lives inside and outside the academy, etc. Your paper should include the following:

- An **introduction** that identifies your topic, provides sufficient background information and context for the topic, and outlines your main points of analysis in the order you address them within your paper. Finally, don't forget to include a thesis statement!
- A **body** that identifies the scholarly conversation on your topic so far and addresses/fleshes out your main points of analysis. Be sure to provide enough evidence and development to advance your analysis.
- A **conclusion** that both summarizes your main points and leaves your reader with a departure, such as the implications of the research you have conducted.

Requirements

- 7-10 pages, double-spaced on a page with 1-inch margins, no bigger than a size 12 font.
- Works cited page with at least four scholarly sources.
- MLA-style formatting and citations. If you need help with this, please consult the OWL at Purdue.

Assignment 4 Mini-portfolio

When you submit the final draft, or mini-portfolio, **be sure to include all previous peer review drafts.** After submitting the mini-portfolio online, you will write a one-page cover letter in class about the revisions you made within your drafts.

You will want to consider the following:

- How did your piece become stronger with revision?
- What did you learn throughout the revision process?
- What will you bring to other assignments from this project?