

Line of Inquiry Option

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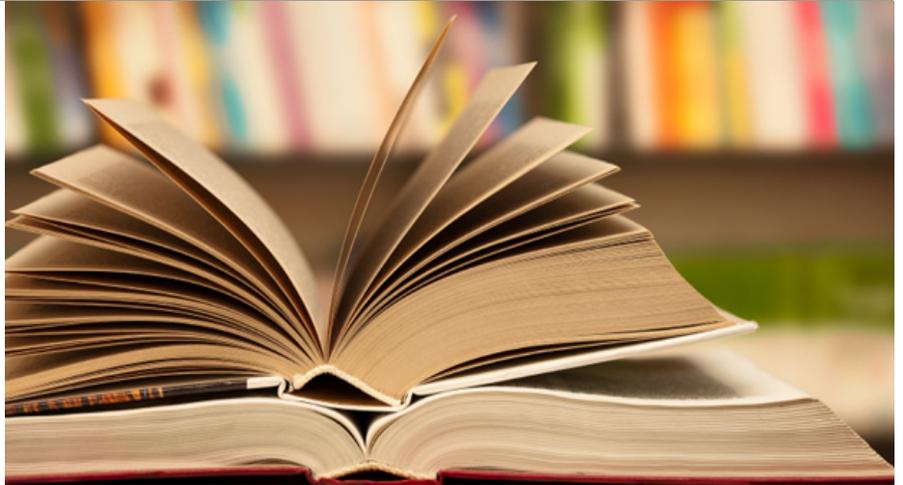
Why/When Should I Choose This Option?

The purpose of the writing development/ written analysis assignments is to improve analytical and writing skills by engaging in repeated practice and receiving instructor feedback. This type of formal writing is typical to many school settings, but also offers an opportunity to work on making an evidence-based argument in a short span. Some students, however, may feel that they have already had many similar opportunities to practice this kind of writing, and wish to develop other skills, possibly preparing to engage in longer and more in-depth analytical/ research-based studies of literature.

Such students may elect to complete a “line of inquiry” assignment in lieu of a writing development/ written analysis assignment. While different, this alternative still offers the chance to develop writing and analytical skills, simply from a different perspective. Such writing will also receive instructor feedback, and students will be expected to improve their technique and approach

Research Focus

A key difference between the written development (WD) and the line of inquiry option is the addition of research components and a goal to engage with contemporary critical discourse. As such, this option is more appropriate for students with some previous knowledge or experience studying literature from this perspective.



Overview & Objective

The line of inquiry assignment asks students to choose one or more pieces of assigned class reading and/or theoretical concepts discussed in class and develop a research project that would explore this/these ideas and texts in more depth. The goal of the assignment is to envision a larger project analyzing a book or applying a theory and do some preliminary work to both make observations about primary texts and seek research that would inform and bolster such study. While students need not draw firm conclusions for this assignment, they will develop several specific and robust research questions, pairing these with secondary-source research.

Requirements

Unlike the written development assignment, which is a more traditionally paragraph based essay, the line of inquiry option may be best written in a proposal style, likely using bullet points, headings, and other organizational techniques. It should be no more than one page, but may utilize both front and back, and must include:

- Three or more substantive and related research questions (or sets of questions) that would act as the premise for further study.
- Brief accounting of six or more textual observations that would help begin contemplation of these research questions (usually quotes).
- Two secondary sources that would be useful to the study, each including an MLA citation, a relevant quote from the text, and a brief (1-2 sentence) description of why the source is relevant.
- A brief concluding summary of where the line of inquiry is headed, including how it contributes to contemporary critical discourse and its potential weight or exigency from an ideological perspective.