Final Writing Exam

Write a research essay on a topic from your field of studies (450 words minimum). There are no new instructions. For full instructions, important tips and the evaluation grid, refer to the documents we went over in the last few weeks:

* In Week 10: “Final Writing Exam Preview” and “Quoting and paraphrasing.”
* This video tutorial on integrating research using the ICE method:  
  <https://content.bridgepointeducation.com/curriculum/file/5408ee9b-e793-44d5-8a4d-e54bc6e72f74/1/Integrating%20Research.zip/story_html5.html>
* In Week 11: “College-level sources”
* In Week 12: “Final essay structure” and “MLA vs APA”
* In “Devoirs:” “Wk11 Notes for your research essay”
* In “Devoirs:” “Wk12 Plan and bibliography”

A few reminders:

* Follow the format. You are supposed to have a thesis statement and topic sentences.
* This is also your reading exam. Your sources need to be college-level and 102-level.
* Use your sources properly: follow the ICE method (from the video).
* Include your bibliography in this document, at the end of your text.
* I am available via Teams to help you. Don’t hesitate to write to me!

# Write your text here:

Preview: Final Reading/Writing Exam (20%)

# Writing component

You will write a research essay about a subject in your field of studies. This essay can be a problem/solution essay or a cause/effect essay.

## Option 1: Problem/solution essay

Think of one problem that affects people in your field of studies (an example for farm management could be “an early spring”) or that affects everyone but which is solved by people in your field of studies (an example for business students would be “helping someone to understand their personal finances so they can get out of debt”). In your introduction, you will explain the problem and what the right solution is. Then, in the development paragraphs, you will justify this solution with distinct arguments, normally one per development paragraph.

## Option 2: Cause/effect essay

Think of one phenomenon seen in your field of studies (an example for science students could be “water pollution”). In your introduction, you will explain either the main cause or the main effect of this phenomenon. Then, in the development paragraphs, you will explore this causal relationship with distinct arguments, for example by dividing the main cause into separate sub-causes, normally one argument per development paragraph.

# Reading component

This exam will also count as your reading exam because you will have to find two articles in English and use them in your essay as sources. You will use them to find information and ideas. Your ability to find good sources and use them to create your own arguments while respecting the rules on proper use of research counts as your reading exam.

# How to do well

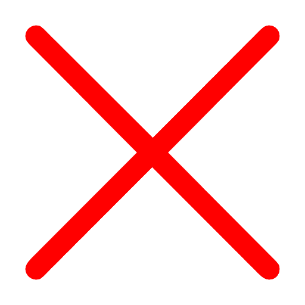
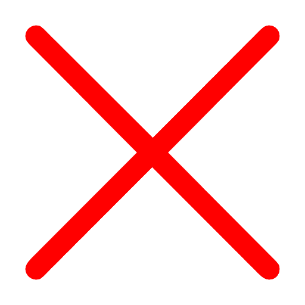
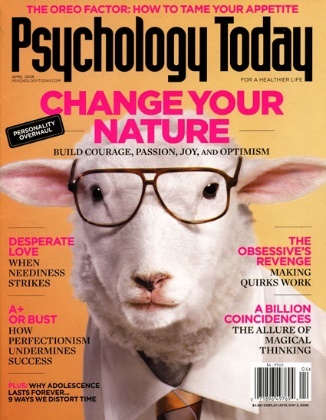
In addition to being able to write well in English, here are the skills you need to demonstrate to get a good result:

* the ability to find sources in your field of studies in English, of an appropriate level;
* the ability to follow the essay format that we are teaching you this semester;
* the ability to write in your own voice about ideas and subjects from your field of studies.
* the ability to use your sources in your essay properly, using quotes and paraphrases appropriately;
* the ability to write in English about your field of studies using academic or professional vocabulary;

College-level sources

# What is a college-level source?

A college-level source is a source that is neither too simple for you, nor too advanced. You currently study in a program. As you do this, you are becoming a professional in that field: You know more and more about it, more than average people who study in different fields, but less maybe than your teachers, for example. Similarly, texts you can read, physically or online, can be divided into categories based on how specialized they are.

## General-public publications and quick web searches: Too basic for you

General-public publications can be interesting to anyone, regardless of education, and cover all subjects. Newspapers are the perfect example of this. They are not written for specialists. The first result on Google for any search is another good example. In general, if I google “dental health,” the first result will most probably be a general-public introduction, not any kind of specialized text that would be useful to a dentist. These publications are not appropriate for you for the same reason.

## Trade magazines: College-level

Trade magazines are specific to one field of studies and are interesting only to people interested in that field. These are the kinds of magazines that you see when you are in a classy waiting room for a dentist, doctor, financial planner, auto repair shop, etc. They are more difficult to read than general-purpose publications because they assume you already know something about the field, but they are still readable by non-specialists who are educated or intellectually curious. These publications are perfectly appropriate for college-level work, though you should avoid the smaller, press release-type articles they also publish.

## Long-read magazines: College-level

These are magazines or newspapers that often publish long, in-depth reports on specific subjects. They mainly target people with some sort of higher education. In terms of content, while they focus on current events, they will generally touch on all issues facing us today, from poverty to space exploration, medical research, technological innovations, business and the economy, etc. These publications are also perfectly appropriate for college-level work, as long as you avoid the shorter articles they also publish.

## Academic publications: Too specialized for now

In you go to university in your field of studies, you will meet professors. These professors must do original research in that field, and then publish it. What they publish is generally only interesting to other professors, so it does not get published in mass market magazine. It instead gets published in very specialized academic publications. These very advanced texts are university-level, and so not recommended for college-level readers. They are not appropriate as sources for this course.

**Self-improvement tip: Make it a habit to read from college-level magazines in your field of study, in any language.**

# Your goal for today

As a reminder, you are planning a research essay in your field of studies on one of the following subjects: (1) a problem and its solution, or (2) a phenomenon, and you explain either its main cause or its main effect.

Today, we want to find a subject for your research essay, along with college-level articles that you will use as sources. This document contains lists of college-level publications. I recommend that you ask me before using a different publication. You will need to find 2 different articles that will help you write your own essay. Each article should be about a different aspect of your subject. Do not have two articles that are almost the same! Each article should be comparable to the articles you read this year to prepare for the “personal discussions,” both in terms of length and seriousness.

Take notes in Teams, in “Devoirs.” At the minimum, you need to save the link to the original article, but you can start taking other notes, too, if you have time. For each source, try to get the following:

* A few short quotes, in “quotation marks,” that contain some interesting, pertinent facts (yes, later, we will transform these into paraphrases, but for your notes, you can leave them as quotes for now);
* one quote, in “quotation marks,” that isn’t a fact, but is instead an interesting idea or opinion.

# Long-read magazines (useful for many fields; start here!)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Topic | Magazine | Website |
| News, issues, culture (Ca) | The Walrus | [www.thewalrus.ca](http://www.thewalrus.ca) |
| News, issues, culture (US) | Time Magazine | [www.time.com](http://www.time.com) |
| News, issues, culture (US) | New York Times | [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) |
| Science | Discover | [www.discovermagazine.com](http://www.discovermagazine.com) |
| Science | Popular Science | [www.popsci.com](http://www.popsci.com) |
| Science | Scientific American | [www.scientificamerican.com](http://www.scientificamerican.com) |
| Humans, society, culture | Behavioral scientist | [behavioralscientist.org](http://www.behavioralscientist.org) |
| The world (natural or cultural) | National Geographic | [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com) |

# Trade magazines (more useful for applied fields, like technical programs)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Topic | Magazine | Website |
| Architecture | Canadian Architect | [www.canadianarchitect.com](http://www.canadianarchitect.com) |
| Business (Can) | The Canadian Business Journal | [www.cbj.ca](http://www.cbj.ca) |
| Business (USA) | Forbes | [www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) |
| Cinema | Bright Lights Film Journal | [brightlightsfilm.com](https://brightlightsfilm.com/) |
| Cinema | Cineaste | [www.cineaste.com](http://www.cineaste.com) |
| Cinema | Cinema Scope | [cinema-scope.com](https://cinema-scope.com/) |
| Cinema (writing) |  | For screenwriting articles, look in “Writing” |
| Farm management | Successful Farming | [www.agriculture.com](http://www.agriculture.com) |
| History | Canada’s History | [www.canadashistory.ca](http://www.canadashistory.ca) |
| Insurance | Insurance Business Canada | [www.insurancebusinessmag.com/ca/](https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/ca/) |
| Management | Inc. | [www.inc.com](http://www.inc.com) |
| Management | Fast Company | [www.fastcompany.com](http://www.fastcompany.com) |
| Mechanical Eng. | Popular Mechanics | [www.popularmechanics.com](http://www.popularmechanics.com) |
| Mechanical Eng. | Mechanical Engineering Magazine | [www.asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/memagazineselect](http://www.asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/memagazineselect) |
| Mechanical Eng. | Industrial Lasers Magazine | [www.industrial-lasers.com/magazine](https://www.industrial-lasers.com/magazine) |
| Medical imaging | The Beat (Ottawa Heart Institute) | [www.ottawaheart.ca/the-beat](http://www.ottawaheart.ca/the-beat) |
| Medical imaging | Radiology Today | [www.radiologytoday.net](http://www.radiologytoday.net) |
| Medical imaging | Radiology Business | [www.radiologybusiness.com](http://www.radiologybusiness.com) |
| Nursing | Canadian Nurse | [www.canadian-nurse.com](http://www.canadian-nurse.com) |
| Personal finance (Ca) | MoneySense | [www.moneysense.ca](http://www.moneysense.ca) |
| Personal finance (Ca) | Globe and Mail: Personal Finance | [www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/personal-finance/](https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/personal-finance/) |
| Personal finance (US) | Money | [www.money.com](http://www.money.com) |
| Personal finance (US) | Kiplinger | [www.kiplinger.com](http://www.kiplinger.com) |
| Photography | Aperture | [aperture.org](https://aperture.org/) |
| Psychology | Psychology Today | [www.psychologytoday.com](http://www.psychologytoday.com) |
| Robotics | Servo Magazine | [www.servomagazine.com](http://www.servomagazine.com) |
| Secretarial work | Executive Secretary | [www.executivesecretary.com](http://www.executivesecretary.com) |
| Social work | Social Work Today | [www.socialworktoday.com](http://www.socialworktoday.com) |
| Technology | Computer World | [www.computerworld.com](http://www.computerworld.com) |
| Technology | PCMag | [www.pcmag.com](http://www.pcmag.com) |
| Technology | Wired | [www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com) |
| Visual arts | Canadian Art | [canadianart.ca](https://canadianart.ca/) |
| Visual arts | Applied Arts | [www.appliedartsmag.com](http://www.appliedartsmag.com) |
| Writing | Writer’s Digest | [www.writersdigest.com](http://www.writersdigest.com) |
| Writing | The Writer | [www.writermag.com](http://www.writermag.com) |