

CRIM 210 Research Paper requirements

Format:

6-8 pages (**full** 6 pages; not 5 pages and a line on page 6; not 5.5 pages; not 5.75 pages)
12 point font
Times New Roman
Double spaced
One inch margins on all sides
Title page (not included in the 6-8 page total): title of paper, name, CRIM 210, date
References page (not included in the 6-8 page total)
Number your pages at the bottom (center)
APA citation style

****DO NOT PLAGIARIZE****

Content:

The paper needs to be on some aspect of criminology. You should look through some criminology books in the library to get some ideas. In terms of topics, it is pretty wide open. Find something that interests you. There are a lot of directions you can take this paper. This may seem obvious, but make sure the topic is actually related to criminology. *Topics that are excluded: serial killers, death penalty, policing, courts, corrections, criminal justice, and justice.*

Special note on the topic: Be advised that your topic must be approved ahead of time. This will save you from writing a paper that does not meet the requirements of the class and, thus, losing most, if not all, of the allotted points for this assignment. Final topic approval is 3/27.

You will need to rely on outside research to write this paper. Please use what I call "legitimate" or "reputable" sources. These sources include academic journal articles, major court cases, and reputable news sources like the Washington Post or New York Times, etc. **DO NOT** USE BLOGS or WIKIPEDIA!!! The best tool at your disposal is the University Library website. You might also want to check out Google Scholar.

Special note on sources: You should have at least EIGHT (8) sources for this paper.

THE PAPER: In terms of style, it can be informative (neutral) or persuasive/positional (one sided). However, you will need support for your position. *Your personal opinions will not count so refrain from using first person ("I").* Also, make sure that you do not simply regurgitate something back to me. Example: you are writing a paper on a theory of crime (i.e., rational choice), and you decide to simply list the main points of the theory. That will not work. That is not the type of paper I am looking for in this class. It is perfectly acceptable to lay out those main points in an introductory paragraph, but it cannot be the

sole basis of your paper. If you have an idea but are not sure whether it works, you can run it by me first.

Also, please note the following: This paper is to be done on your own. This paper must be original and new for this class. You are not permitted to turn in a paper from previous classes.

A grading rubric will be provided to help guide you on expectations.

Things to keep in mind:

Follow directions

Proofread

****DO NOT PLAGIARIZE****

Due Date: April 17 (by 4:00 PM; in other words, 4:01 PM is late)

If you have any other questions, feel free to ask.

Writing Skills

To improve your writing skills, the university offers assistance through the University Writing Center (writingcenter.gmu.edu/). If you struggle with your writing, I highly encourage you to utilize free resources like the University Writing Center while you are a student here. It is much more difficult (and sometimes expensive) to improve once you graduate. It is incumbent upon you to enhance your skills and make your education a priority.