1. The length of the paper must be 7-8 full pages—no more, no less.

2. The paper must use Modern Language Association 8 (MLA). Whether the sources are directly quoted, paraphrased, or summarized, credit must be given to them using MLA in-text citations as well as a works cited page at the end of your paper. Note: A paper which does not use current MLA format, or does not cite its sources, will receive an automatic “F.” You have resources to guide you—use them!

3. The paper must use 2 secondary sources in an in-depth way. Acceptable secondary sources include critical analysis of the literature found on databases (journal articles), and books/book chapters. You are welcome to do your own research; however, the class annotated bibliography will probably provide you with some fantastic resources. It is, at the very least, a really great starting point for your research. If you choose some or all of your sources from the annotated bibliography, you must still access and read those sources in their entirety. Remember, all sources must be print-based—that means databases are okay but websites are not. Your class notes and other class handouts do not count towards your required 2 sources, although you are welcome to use them.

4. The paper must be typed in size 12 Times New Roman. Please double-space, use normal margins, and include page #s on your essay. Also include a title page (name, class and section, instructor’s name, paper title, email address), as well as a Works Cited page in MLA format.

5. You are not writing a book report. This paper should be primarily comprised of your analysis, opinions and ideas. You are using research to support points you’ve already made, and to provide background, historical, etc. information.

6. Papers will NOT be accepted late.

7. This essay is worth 25% of your course grade.

Due Dates:
M 4/1 Source Summary
W 4/10 Writer’s Review Workshop
M 4/15 Research Papers due in class and online

→ Over
You may write about any primary piece of literature that we have read in class this semester.

**Possible Topic Choices:**

- How is patriarchy opposed and/or perpetuated in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?
- Research the impact of women during the Harlem Renaissance. Why was Zora Neale Hurston’s novel significant as a female Harlem Renaissance novel?
- What comment does *The Handmaid’s Tale* make on oppression and patriarchy?
- In an interview, Atwood said that "This is a book about what happens when certain casually held attitudes about women are taken to their logical conclusions. For example, I explore a number of conservative opinions still held by many - such as a woman's place is in the home. And also certain feminist pronouncements - women prefer the company of other women, for example. Take these beliefs to their logical ends and see what happens.” How does the world of Gilead contain elements of extremely conservative, religious beliefs, as well as elements of more liberal, feminist beliefs? Do you think Atwood accomplished her goal?
- Explore the significance of a single character in *The Handmaid’s Tale* besides Offred: the Commander, Serena Joy, Moira, Nick, Ofwarren, Ofglen.
- Explore and unpack Atwood’s notions of sex and consent in Gilead.
- Explore how Offred changes as a result of her experience in Gilead. How is this development integral to Atwood’s message to the reader?
- Showing, which relays the action so the reader is experiencing it with the characters, and telling, which uses a narrator to fill in the reader about aspects of the story, are two tools by which creators relay action in their books. Bechdel uses both showing and telling in *Fun Home*. How might the story have differed if she used one and not the other?
- How does Clifton portray women and women’s bodies in her poetry?
- How does Clifton redefine the common ways we think of things like menstruation or biblical characters?
- **Got a great idea that you don’t see here? Run it by me for approval.**

**Important Notes:**

- You should analyze and discuss the literature, and incorporate a discussion of the secondary sources. Remember, this is not an essay about what the critics think of the literature — your voice should be dominant throughout your essay. You should write an interpretative essay which integrates a discussion of the research solely as a means to strengthen your argument.
- Note, you may use additional primary materials (such as poems by Clifton, other works by Hurston etc.) but this does not take the place of doing research. You will still need 2 secondary sources in addition to your primary source materials.
- We will discuss this assignment further in class. When we do so, please pay attention and make sure you ask whatever questions you might have.
- Note: A paper with confirmed evidence of plagiarism will automatically fail and will be subject to the college’s Policy on Academic Integrity (posted on your syllabus). Plagiarized papers cannot be redone or made-up.
- If you are having trouble with any part of this assignment—choosing a topic, finding sources, documentation, etc—please make an appointment to see me or visit the Writing Center for assistance.