

Assignment Packet for English 1102

Dr. Robertson, English Department

Your final grade for this course will be determined based, primarily, on the major assignments listed below. We will discuss each assignment in more detail in class. You'll find the due dates on the schedule portion of the syllabus.

For items that are supposed to be turned in through Canvas, you'll lose points if you forget to turn them in that way; however, you can get those points back if you later upload the material.

TURNITIN PRACTICE

Go to the Canvas section for this course (<https://canvas.troy.edu/>) and look in "Modules" for the Turnitin Practice File. Download the file to your computer. Then simply re-upload the file to the "Turnitin Practice" assignment.

FORMAT ASSIGNMENT

Go to the Canvas section for this course and look in "Modules" for the "Essay to Format.doc" file. Download the file to your computer. Next, reformat the file in MLA style. Don't change any of the wording except on the works-cited page (note that the essay has only two sources). Check margins, paragraph spacing, spelling, headers, and so forth. Place a heading on the essay in MLA style (your name, instructor name, class name, date). When you're finished, print and turn in the essay. Properly formatted, the essay is only two pages long (including the Works Cited).

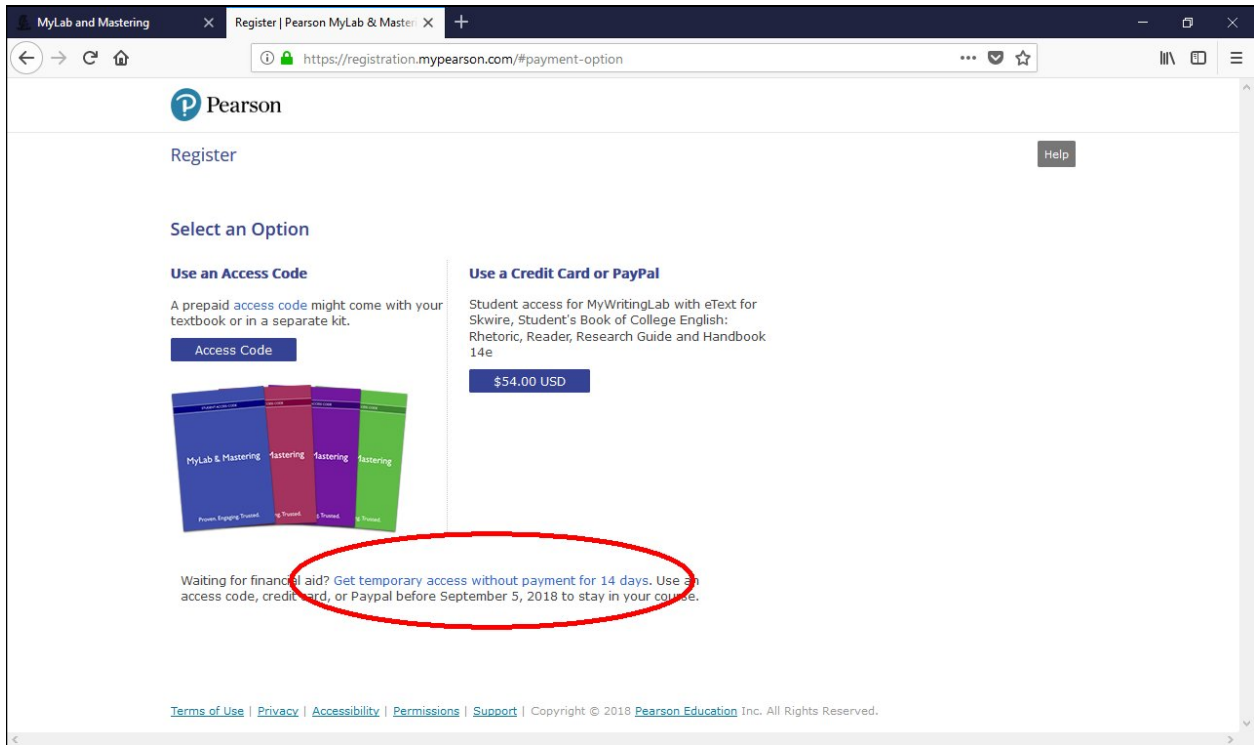
Having trouble with the assignment? Here's an old video of mine that details each step along the way: http://youtu.be/-G4_V1wWE4w. If you use this old style of MLA, I'll still count it as correct!

A Note on Grading for This Assignment

This assignment has to be 100 percent correct for you to receive any points. If it's not correct when you turn it in, I'll give it back to you to correct and turn in again. On your printed copy, I'll mark some—but not necessarily all—of the things that need changing. The number of points you get depends on when you get the assignment correct. Check the schedule in the syllabus for entries that look like this: "Format (# pts)." You get the number of points (out of ten) indicated by the "#" if you have the assignment correct on or before that date. You can turn in this assignment as many times as necessary (including multiple times before the first due date if you want).

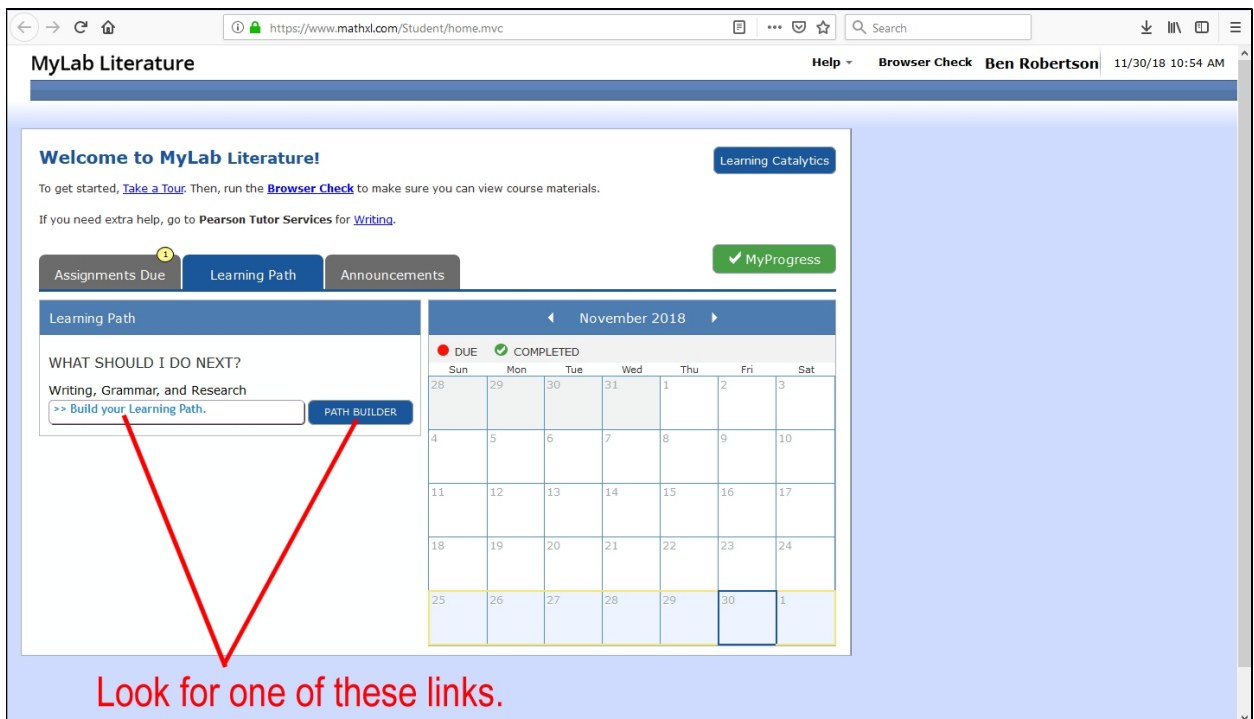
MY LITERATURE LAB (MLL)

At the beginning of the semester, you need to complete the Learning Path Builder in MyLiteratureLab (MLL). First, you'll have to log into MLL by clicking on the "MyLab and Mastering" link in our course shell in Canvas and then the orange button labelled "Open MyLab and Mastering." You have to accept the terms and conditions, and you should see a screen like this one:



You can save money by choosing the 14-day trial version (if it's still available) and doing all the exercises during a two-week period. Otherwise, the access code comes with *Backpack Literature*, or you can buy it separately (see the image above).

Once you've registered to use the MLL system, look for the path-builder link:



Complete the path-builder quiz. It probably will have lots of questions (maybe as many as 45), so it may take you a while. Once you've done that quiz, the system will assign modules to you for practice based on your score. Your job will be to master five of the modules in the "Reading and Writing about Literature" section (not the "Literary Works" section):

The screenshot shows the MyLab Literature interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with "MyLab Literature" and user information "Ben Robertson". Below that, a "Welcome to MyLab Literature!" message is followed by a "Learning Path" section. This section includes a calendar for January 2019 and two main activity categories: "Reading and Writing about Literature" and "Literary Works". Red arrows point from the text "Do these." to the "Reading and Writing about Literature" section, and "Don't do these (unless you just want extra practice)." to the "Literary Works" section.

You need to complete the following five modules:

- Writing about Literature (4 topics)
- Reading Critically and Rhetorically (4 topics)
- Conducting Research and Documenting Sources (10 topics)
- Composing Clear and Effective Sentences (9 topics)
- Using Punctuation, Mechanics, and Spelling (9 topics)

= 36 total topics

The screenshot shows the "Reading and Writing about Literature Learning Path" page. It features a grid of module cards. Each card displays the module name, a progress bar for "Topics" and "Activities", and a red 'X' indicating completion status. Five modules are circled in green: "Writing about Literature", "Reading Critically and Rhetorically", "Conducting Research and Documenting Sources", "Composing Clear and Effective Sentences", and "Using Punctuation, Mechanics, and Spelling". The other modules have red 'X's over them, indicating they are not to be completed. A red arrow points from the text "Do the modules circled in green, not the ones with a red x." to the green circles.

Your screen will have fewer modules showing if you did well on the path builder. You demonstrate mastery of the modules by getting an 80 percent score (or higher) on the post-test for each topic in a module. Now for the good news: If you master any of the five assigned modules by doing really well on the path builder, then you won't have to do those activities! In short, do your best on the path builder so you won't have to do as much work.

The screenshot shows the MyLab Literature interface. On the left, a 'Topics List' is circled in red, containing: Reading Literature Closely, Writing Literary Analyses and Explications, Writing a Literature-based Research Paper, Working with Literary Criticism, and I.4.1 Post-test. To the right, a table lists activities for 'I.4.1' with columns for 'Due', 'Attempts', and 'Current Score'. The 'I.4.1 Post-test' row is circled in red. Red arrows point from these circles to the following text:

Each one of these topics has its own post-test (so there are four in this particular module).

The post-test is the only activity you have to do under each topic. If you have trouble passing the post-test the first time, then you might want to look at the overview and other activities before trying the post-test again.

You may keep track of your progress by clicking the green “MyProgress” button on the MLL home screen:

The screenshot shows the MyLab Literature home screen. A green 'MyProgress' button is circled in red. Below it is a calendar for January 2019. A green checkmark is visible on the calendar for January 7th. Red text explains the button's function:

Click here on the MLL home screen to see the specific activities you've completed (and your scores).

If you're still unsure whether you're doing the right work, you can just send me a quick e-mail at any time to ask about your progress, and I'll let you know if you're doing the correct assignments. By the way, you're welcome to do more than the required exercises if you'd like extra practice on grammar-type issues—and/or if you'd like to raise your overall MLL score before I enter it into the gradebook!

Once you're finished with the five assigned modules, you'll need to take the MLL Mastery Check. You'll find it as a red dot listed on the MLL calendar near the end of the semester (click the arrows to move forward a month at a time):

The screenshot shows the MyLab Literature interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'MyLab Literature' and user information 'Ben Robertson'. Below this, there's a 'Welcome to MyLab Literature!' section with a 'Learning Catalytics' button. A 'MyProgress' indicator shows a green checkmark. The main content area has tabs for 'Assignments Due', 'Learning Path', and 'Announcements'. The 'Learning Path' tab is active, showing a calendar for May 2019. A red circle highlights a red dot on the calendar for May 8th, 2019, with a tooltip that reads: '05/08/19 Reading and Writing about Literature: MyLiteratureLab Mastery Check (required work not completed)'. The interface also shows 'WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?' with options for 'Reading and Writing about Literature' and 'Literary Works', each with a 'NEXT ACTIVITY' button.

GRAMMARLY

Before turning in the out-of-class essay assignments, you might consider running each one through the Grammarly web site. The site should give you some suggestions for revising the text.

Here are a few instructions to get you started:

How to Sign Up for Grammarly

1. Go to <<http://www.grammarly.com>>.
2. Click the “Sign Up” button.
3. Enter your name, e-mail address, and a password. Then choose whether you're a native-speaker of English.
4. Click the red “Sign Up” button.
5. Click the red “Continue to your account” button. (Unless, of course, you just *want* to use the paid version, which you're welcome to do.)
6. Look around at the available features.
7. When you're finished, click “Log out.”

How to Use Grammarly to Examine Your Writing

1. Go to <<http://www.grammarly.com>>.
2. Click “Log in” in the upper righthand corner of the page.
3. Enter your e-mail and password information, and click the red “Log in” button.
4. At this point, you may either upload a file (recommended) or copy and paste your text into the system. The system will then examine your text and flag any issues it detects.
 - a. To upload your file: Click “Upload” on the first icon on the screen; then choose the file name from your computer, and click “Open.”
 - b. To copy and paste your file: Click “New” on the first icon on the screen; then copy your text from your word processor, and paste it into the box on the screen.
5. Look through the suggested corrections. You may ignore them or ask the computer to make the suggested changes. Or, a better option might be simply to have your file open in a separate window, where you make the changes yourself (this will preserve your formatting).
6. Once you’re finished, you may choose the down arrow in a box on the lefthand side of the screen. This link will give you the option to download the file back to your computer. Keep in mind, however, that if you use this method, the system may destroy your formatting, which will mean that you’ll need to reformat the paper.
7. When you’re finished, click the little house icon on the lefthand menu. This will take you to the “My Grammarly” screen.
8. Click “Log out” when you’re finished.

Grammarly also has an extension for Chrome as well as apps for MS Office and Windows.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS

The majority of your grade this semester comes from a sequence of six written assignments based on the assigned literature. In terms of composition, each paper should use argumentation as its primary mode, with other modes (definition, comparison/contrast, *etc.*) used to support that argumentation. As the semester progresses, we’ll discuss specific strategies and topics for each paper, but in general terms, try to develop topics that allow you to interpret the literature while simultaneously linking it with current or historical events. You’ll need at least one recent source for each paper. Check the syllabus for the minimum number of sources and minimum number of words for each assignment.

Sources. To support your arguments, you’ll need to use outside sources (secondary sources), but you need to use reputable sources. Your best bet is to use the library databases such as *Opposing Viewpoints* or *Lexis-Nexis*. A few items to avoid always: *Wikipedia*, anything with “Shmoop” in its name, SparkNotes, about.com, 123HelpMe, Gradesaver, Hubpages, e-notes, and similar sites.

Format. In an academic community that communicates effectively, proper formatting is a mark both of one’s ability to follow instructions and of one’s willingness to interact with one’s colleagues in an accepted, mutually understandable manner. Hence, it is important that you follow proper MLA format in producing your texts, particularly as you cite your sources. Check the syllabus for additional details on assignment format.

Grading Criteria. I’ll be looking for a clearly defined, arguable thesis and a logical organization of paragraph structures in each paper. In working on your thesis statements, think of how you would respond if you presented your thesis statements to someone, and the person asked, “So what?” I’ll also look at grammar, usage, mechanics, and so forth, as well as at your use of secondary material.

Your use of sources is extremely important; any paper that does not include a Works Cited, for example, automatically gets a failing grade. Check the syllabus and my Spectrum site for other criteria.

Paper Submission. You must submit your papers electronically through the Canvas system (which will send them, in turn, to *Turnitin.com*) on or before the due date. If you'd like a marked-up copy of your paper returned to you, just let me know.

ESSAY REVISION

If you want to, you may revise one of the first three major assignments you do this semester (Major Assignment 2, 3, or 4). A few guidelines:

- If the revision is substantially better, you'll get a higher grade for the essay. If the revision is not as good as the first essay or is about the same, your grade for the essay will stay the same.
- If you skipped an essay, this is your chance to turn it in and get some (but not full) credit for it.
- The revision will be due on the last day of class before the final exam period (earlier is better and is more likely to get you a higher score).

PRESENTATION



For your presentation, you will analyze a piece of literature from our textbook. Prepare a talk in which you do the following:

- Introduce yourself
- Give us the title and author of the work you are discussing (Don't start by saying, "I did my presentation on ..." because you haven't done your presentation yet!).
- Read the most important parts of the work to the class (or the whole thing if it's a short poem).
- Present your interpretation of the work and relate it to real life.
- Share your sources with your audience either as part of the presentation or on a handout.
- Ask if the audience has any questions.

Your presentation should be a sort of informal lecture of about five minutes, and I encourage you to involve your audience. Do *not* bring food or drink of any kind for the audience. I will assign you a text randomly, and the presentations will be at the end of the semester (check the syllabus for dates). I've given you spaces below to record the information so that you won't forget.

Title and author: _____ Page number: _____

When I grade your presentation, I'll be looking at your preparedness, at how effectively you present the material, and at the sources of your material. Try to give your presentation a logical organization that clearly guides your listeners. Make sure to cite your sources as you speak (and in a handout, if you like). Here's the rubric from Canvas:

Presentation Scores							  
Criteria	Ratings					Pts	
On Time (Pulling Names Counts)	1 pts One		0 pts Zero			1 pts	
Introduction	2 pts Two		1 pts One		0 pts Zero	2 pts	
Organization	4 pts Four	3 pts Three	2 pts Two	1 pts One	0 pts Zero	4 pts	
Preparedness	4 pts Four	3 pts Three	2 pts Two	1 pts One	0 pts Zero	4 pts	
Visual Aids	4 pts Four	3 pts Three	2 pts Two	1 pts One	0 pts Zero	4 pts	
Use of Sources	3 pts Three		2 pts Two	1 pts One	0 pts Zero	3 pts	
Length	2 pts Two		1 pts One		0 pts Zero	2 pts	
Total Points: 20							