

RESEARCH QUESTION & NARRATIVE

ENGL 108 / SEC. H & I / SUMMER LEAP 2009 / OLDHAM & RUBASKY / CHANG & LEE



Last week, you worked on close reading texts, an analytical and critical skill that can be used to generate ideas and questions as well as to identify and answer them. After reading the Dubrow chapter on the *sento* and the International District (ID), choose a topic some way related to this essay. Try to choose something that interests you, because the more you are interested the less that researching will seem like work—it might even be fun. While your topic should be related to the Dubrow, to the *sento*, to the International District, or to the lives, histories, arts, and traditions that intersect with these things, we want you to think creatively about your topic.

Before You Begin Writing

Use the reading and your visit to the ID as occasions to generate ideas, potential topics, and lines of inquiry. What caught your attention? What do you want to learn more about? What questions do you have? In the past, students have written about various aspects of the internment camps, World War II, other histories of the International District, other important buildings and landmarks, cooking, religious ceremonies, the District today, and so on. Be clear, specific, concrete with your topic; explore whether the topic might be too broad or too narrow with a little initial research. Make sure to do the Read-Search Brainstorming Proposal worksheet. Begin with some preliminary research, locate potential sources for your Read-Search Project, and determine what topics seem viable and how to narrow your research question.

Goals and Outcomes

For this short paper assignment, you will write up a research question and a research narrative draft. Be precise and concise. Your paper should address the following:

- 1) What is your topic and **research question**? In other words, what are you interested in finding out more about and writing about? How did you decide on your topic? What steps, strategies, concerns, and difficulties did you use or encounter?
- 2) How did you research your topic? How did you decide your topic was researchable? How did you locate useful, credible, and relevant research sources and materials? What steps, strategies, concerns, and difficulties did you use or encounter? Summarize your **research process** and not your research sources.

Guidelines and Due Dates

Format: 2 pages, typed, double-spaced, 1” margins, title, proper heading, 12-point Times Roman font, MLA format, proofread and edited, stapled

Due: Tuesday, July 28 at 9:00 AM
bring 2 copies to class, to be turned in with the Read-Search Brainstorming Proposal sheet