Examining the Term Paper for PERLS 204

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http://www.ualberta.ca/~graves1/index.html
Centre for Writers

Welcome to the Centre for Writers
We offer free one-on-one writing coaching and support to all students, instructors and staff at the University of Alberta - in any faculty or at any level of study.

Our writing coaches are available to assist clients with higher order concerns in their writing, such as thesis formation, organization and idea development, as well as more specific details, like grammar and documentation style. Clients can bring in any writing project at any stage of development: essays, lab reports, creative pieces, scholarly articles, thesis drafts, application letters - and more. Our coaches will also help students read instructor comments on already-graded papers. ESL and EAL students are welcome!

Request a class room visit by a tutor.

Welcome back for the Fall 2009 term! Tutoring hours will begin on Monday, September 14. The online appointment-booking schedule will be available to clients as soon as possible prior to this date. We look forward to working with you!

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GRAM WOW!
Note the verbs: Critical analysis

- Examine
- Analyze
- Critically analyze
- Historically analyze
- Assess
- Interpret
- Debate
- Consider
- Illustrate
- Evaluate

What do these terms mean to you?
Proposal

1. What topic will you study?
2. What is/are the scope/limitations on your topic?
3. What is the context for your study?
4. Citations
What topic will you study?

- Identify a topic of inquiry
- Translate that topic into a thesis by stating what your attitude is to that topic
- In this essay I will analyze how leisure and vice combined to form what have been called “sinful pleasures” in the boom-town gold rush economy of the Klondike. The absence of traditional social hierarchies in this time and place, combined with the fuel of easy money and masculinity, accounted for this new conception of leisure.
Other thesis statements?
What are the limitations?

- You have 5 pages to work with
- What main claims do you want to make in the 3-4 pages of the body of your essay?
- Time? 1890-1900
- Place? Klondike only
- Gender? Masculine entertainments?
- Culture? Approach
What is the context for your study?

- Summarize what you have read so far
- Connect those readings to your thesis
- Identify specific questions that you think you will try to learn more about
- Conclusion—restate the working thesis?
The essay

Structured for you:
1. Title page
2. Introduction
3. **Body**—this is the area to focus on
4. Conclusion
5. References [?]
Ex. [this study] will be a unique scholarly contribution as very few studies genuinely combine oral history and the documentary record.
Claims and Assumptions

- Claim + stated reason rest upon an unstated reason
- Both the stated and unstated reasons rely on shared assumptions of value between the writer and the reader
- Evidence demonstrates the validity of the stated or unstated reasons
- When values are shared, less evidence is needed to convince the reader
A claim in 3 parts

- By engaging in historical/archival research, by reviewing the vast amount of public information now available on [this topic], and by conducting interviews with policy makers, researchers, activists and industry representatives, my research will develop a systematic assessment of [topic] and the conditions in which it has become finalized.
Getting organized

• Thesis= main claim, argument
  The absence of traditional social hierarchies in this time and place, combined with the fuel of easy money and masculinity, accounted for this new conception of leisure

• Body: subsidiary claims

  1. Free enterprise capitalism in the Klondike contributed to a dominant ideological stance that valued the free choice of the individual to pursue whatever leisure activities they wanted—including gambling, drinking to excess, and womanizing—with few, if any, restraints.

  2. Leisure in the Klondike boomtown created and enforced a particular kind of masculinity in contrast to the “rational recreation” of more established cities and towns in the Northwest.
Free enterprise capitalism in the Klondike contributed to a dominant ideological stance that valued the free choice of the individual to pursue whatever leisure activities they wanted—including gambling, drinking to excess, and womanizing—with few, if any, restraints.

Implied in this claim is the structure (order) of the next part of the essay:

1. A section or paragraph on gambling
2. A section or paragraph on drinking to excess
3. A section or paragraph on womanizing/sexual debauchery
1. Introductions

- Often good to write them last so that they match the essay
- Identify the purpose and outline the topic area
- Define/narrow the topic
- Connect the topic to PERLS 204
Klondike introduction