

**Bill Wolff**

**College Composition 2: The Rhetoric of War, Spring 2007**

**Research Paper Rough Draft #1**

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The first draft of your research paper will consist of **directed summaries** of 3 or 4 authors – no more than one that we have read in class. You should approach the books and articles you are using not as sources of information, but as the arguments, perspectives, and points of view of the authors **that you are going to use to help you argue your own point.**

Be sure to arrange your summaries so that they follow logically from one author to another and build toward the point(s) you are going to make in your paper. Make sure one of the authors you use is a frame author. Think of your first draft as a conversation: you might begin with one author's position on a particular point, then bring in another author who has an opposing view, then go back to the first author and bring in a third for support, then address an underlying issue, and so on. The difficulty will be bringing them into a coherent conversation, since they are most likely not writing in response to one another. You will need to think carefully about the transitions from one perspective to another, and you will need to find ways of making connections. Most importantly, however, you will need to be able to see how you are going to use that author to help you argue your point.

The structure for this essay is NOT the frame/case that we have been discussing in class; the final 3 drafts will be in that structure. You do not need a traditional introduction or thesis; just start discussing the texts. For this first draft, all you are interested in is getting to know your authors and your topic in more depth than you started with a few days ago. Take the opportunity to explore the different sides of the issue and look carefully about how the frame influences the way you understand the those. If you find you have texts that all have the same opinion or interpretation of an historical event, you are heading in the wrong direction; we are looking for differences because it is within the differences that we can explore.

### **Research Tips**

You will find it much easier if you begin with more sources than you need; that way you can eliminate arguments that seem to digress, or that don't seem to advance the conversation.

Remember that through your research you are becoming an expert on your topic. That means you should pay special attention to what constitutes expertise among your sources. What foundational sources are cited repeatedly? What scholars are mentioned by the authors of your articles and books? Get a sense of which texts you should be familiar with in order to be an expert in your field, and obtain those texts and read them. Looking directly at the footnotes and end notes is essential for the research process: they can point you in new and exciting directions, help clarify points, and give you new perspectives on your subject as well as the author you are currently working with. Often authors sacrifice the whole picture in order to prove their point.

Do not think of your research as complete just because you've begun writing. As you write you might find that a source you've rejected is, after all, pertinent. Or you may become aware of another text that is central to the conversation you are developing. Continue to return to the library as you are writing, try out different research strategies (often using new key words or the

same key words in different order will yield different results), and continue to read new sources. You should not stop researching until 29 April.

**The essay is to be written double spaced using Microsoft Word, Times New Roman font size 12, and with 1 inch margins all around.**

### **Source Requirements**

- 1 frame text (depending on your topic, it can be Coates or Regan)
- 2 books from library (one of which is cited in the foot or end notes of the other)
- 1 journal article from library

### **Due Dates and Page Requirements**

- Monday, 25 March; 4 - 6 pages; two printed versions due at start of class
- Peer response will be conducted in class
- Use the following format when saving the file: “cc2-s07-yourlastname-rp-rd1.doc”
- Draft submitted to openarea folder entitled “rp-rd-1” by classtime