

## The Research Essay Lioi/746

The purpose of the research essay is to allow you to engage in a long writing project in which you deeply engage some issue of profound interest to you in the broad, interdisciplinary field of medicine and humanities. Obviously, as a humanistic project, your research essay should move beyond technical data (though these may be included, of course) and engage issues of medical ethics, practice, philosophy, history, arts, etc.

### Requirements:

- The project must focus on a question of your own devising. You may extend one of your previous essays if you wish.
- It must engage with scholarly research in appropriate fields. This means, at minimum, 6 primary sources\*, academic monographs and/or journal articles.
- The project should retain a strong personal perspective, even as it engages in synthesis, analysis, and exposition of its research materials.
- It should conform to the standards of scholarly prose as we have discussed and practiced them in class.
- It must go through at least one rough draft, not including drafts involved in previous assignments.
- The project must be presented to the class in a 10 minute oral presentation, not including the question-and-answer period afterwards.
- The final draft must be between 12-15 pages long, excluding apparatus (appendices, bibliography, notes).

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\* A “primary source” is a source, such as the Hippocratic Oath, which is not the product of scholarly research, but the object of scholarly research. Primary sources also include oral histories, historical documents, interviews with persons involved in a particular event, etc., which reflect an eye-witness authority.