

Research Summary Directions

You have now completed the first two steps in our build-an-essay project. You now have a first draft essay.

Step 1:

In the next phase of this project, you will be searching for at least one *secondary source* from the BMCC online library, which you will later incorporate into your in-progress essay.

At this point, however, you will pause in your writing of the essay to write a brief report about your secondary source research.



The secondary source **must** be:

- a literary critique from one of BMCC's literary databases
- **or**
- an article from the BMCC database Biography in Context.

Be sure that the secondary source information is relevant to your thesis; e.g. Do not include biographical information that has nothing to do with the point you are making about the story. For example, biographical information about an author's date and place of birth *may not* be relevant to your thesis. On the other hand, a specific incident from the author's life *might be* relevant to your thesis.

Sources found on Google are not acceptable, nor are Wikipedia or dot.coms such as blogs. **You must use the BMCC online library.** This will actually make your task easier because there will be fewer articles to cull through, and all articles are vetted and considered reliable.

Step 2:

Now you will write a *3-paragraph* report (about 250 words) about your secondary source. In order to receive full credit, you must follow the outline provided below.

Outline

Paragraph 1

- Identify the literary work you are discussing in your research essay (primary source)
- Identify the *thesis* of your essay

Paragraph 2

- Identify the title of your secondary source and the author, if one is given.
- State which BMCC database the secondary source comes from
- State the main idea of the secondary source article

Paragraph 3

- In one or two sentences, explain how the secondary source information *helps support your thesis*.
- Provide in-text citation and Works Cited citation for both the primary and the secondary sources.

Works Cited

- Cite the your chosen work of literature (primary source), using correct MLA format. Notice that a hanging indent should be used. Indent each line after the first line.
- Cite your secondary source. Copy and paste citation from the BMCC database. The citation is provided on the database with the articles.

Works Cited entries for the stories (primary sources) are listed below.

Notice that a hanging indent should be used. Indent each line after the first line.

Bambara, Toni Cade. "The Lesson." *Gorilla, My Love*. Random House, 1972:

http://www.cengage.com/custom/static_content

OLC/s76656_76218lf/bambara.pdf.

Hughes, Langston. "Salvation." *The Center for Fiction.org*. Web.

Joyce, James. "Araby." Commonlit.org. CommonLit.

<https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/araby>

Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. "The Most Handsome Drowned Man in the World." *An Introduction to Fiction*. Eds. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007. 536-540.