

Thesis (300 points):

Overview:

You will be doing an Analytic Research Paper, which means you will formulate a question and then explore that topic and evaluate the arguments made in literature. During this process, you will not take an argumentative stance; instead, you will frame your particular take upon the question and evaluate the literature from that perspective as a way to explain how you came to your conclusion.

Your thesis paper should be related to an aspect of your project. For example: if you're creating an Alternate Reality Game (ARG), your thesis should explore a topic related to that genre of digital storytelling.

Objectives:

- Understand and apply basic academic research methodologies
- Apply critical thinking skills to a specific interaction design-related question
- Create a researched thesis paper evaluating a specific question

Requirements:

- The paper will be 10-15 pages, single spaced
- The paper will include no less than 20 cited references
- The paper will use the current APA citation method
- The paper will include a title page (not counted towards the page count)

Advice:

The thesis project is theoretical component to your practical final project. Thus your thesis project is dependent upon your creative project. Please consider your planning process accordingly because once you start down the development road, you will not have time to scrap your work and begin anew.

Also, the thesis is set up in stages to help you grasp the finer points of academic research and writing. While I will not grade you harshly for needing several drafts to get your Research Question correct, I will also not offer extra help if you fail to do your work on time.

Timeline + Project Outline:

- Week 4: Research Question: 25
- Week 8: Annotated Bibliography: 25
 - Week 6 is for evaluative feedback
- Week 8: Thesis, Abstract, Intro: 50

- Week 12: Thesis: 200
 - Title Page
 - Table of Contents
 - Thesis: 5

- A strong thesis is one sentence, lays out the main discussion points of the paper and offers an explanation for differentiation with this take
- Abstract: 5
 - This 100-150 summary of the main points made in the paper should act as a narrative “table of contents” for the argument and conclusion
- Key words: 5
 - You should include 3-5 keywords that would be used a search terms for this piece
- Introduction: 10:
 - This section should explain how the author decided upon the research question that started the project. The research question should be explicitly stated within the narrative.
- Literature Review: 50
 - The Annotated Bibliography should serve as the framework for this section, which examines the specific definitions and research that preceded your work. In this section, you must operationalize the definitions and ideas you will discuss.
- Argument: 50
 - This section should contain the main discussion points (discussed and summarized in the Introduction), and then use research as a backup for those points. This section should not include the same resources from the Literature Review.
- Conclusion: 5
 - This section should examine what questions have arisen from the research
- Works Cited: 20
 - This section should contain all works cited within the paper. Every citation in this section must appear in the paper.
- Writing: 50
 - Authors should make sure work is presented in a professional manner. That means including a cover page, following outlined sections, formatting correctly, paying attention to grammar and word choice, and developing a well-constructed, logical argument.