



## BASCOM HONORS PROGRAM

### Waiver of ENGL 204H: Honors Seminar: Writing and American Rhetoric



The process of waiving this Honors English class includes your submitting a research paper demonstrating your mastery of using good sources (usually from books and peer-reviewed journals) to support a main point in a well-written, persuasive research paper. The process also may also include your meeting with an English faculty member to discuss the paper as requested.

Students are allowed to file this petition only once during their academic program at Maryville, so please take the time to submit only your best work. Your paper should be submitted via email to Dr. Alden Craddock ([acraddock@maryville.edu](mailto:acraddock@maryville.edu)). Most papers that students submit are at least seven pages long, although longer papers are accepted.

After submission, your paper will be reviewed by an English faculty member for the following:

- a strong thesis statement that presents your main point, usually taking a stand on some issue
- a persuasive argument that includes adequate support from reliable sources; you may use the following criteria to assess the credibility of your sources: Is the source peer-reviewed? Does the writer have expertise in the subject? Does the source provide up-to-date information?
- a unified argument that clearly focuses each paragraph on the thesis
- coherence: clear transitions connecting each paragraph of your research paper to your thesis
- a knowledge of how to incorporate your research into your argument as evidence
- the use of reliable, up-to-date sources, including books and peer-reviewed articles by experts in the academic field of your research
- correct documentation (MLA, APA, or Chicago), including Works Cited, References, or Bibliography page(s)
- clear and correct sentences
- an understanding of grammar

#### Standards of Excellence for Assessing Your Research Paper

1. An appropriately limited thesis states your specific claim on a controversial topic (taking a side) and provides a focus for your paper. (10 points)
2. The Works Cited list or References list is correct. (10 points)
3. In-text documentation is correct. (10 points)
4. In-text documentation is adequate. There is usually at least one citation on each page. (10 points)
5. The paper presents both sides of the controversial issue and shows an understanding of the opponent's position. (10 points)
6. Coherence: The paper flows from one paragraph to the next, using transition words, bridge sentences, and other devices of coherence to connect paragraphs. (10 points)
7. Adequate reliable support is given for the thesis. (10 points)
8. At least five reliable sources cited in the paper were published in the last five years; at least one recent, reliable source presents the opponent's point of view. (10 points)
9. Sentences are clear and correct. (20 points)
10. There is no plagiarism in the paper. (Priceless)

If your paper is assessed as meeting the qualifications listed above, then you are not required to complete ENGL204H for the honors program. However, you will not receive academic credit for ENGL 204H and you will still be required to replace this honors seminar with another honors seminar to meet the Honors Program requirement of completing 7 honors seminars.