Researching
Source material:
primary source – raw data, original documents, authentic artifacts
secondary source – other people’s thoughts/opinions on subject

Construct a research question
Make your question specific and challenging – should not be rhetorical
speculate about an answer or argument (brainstorming)
make a plan
two-week process:
Week 1 – decide on a topic, evaluate secondary sources, take notes
Week 2 – outline, draft paper, proofread, revise, final draft

use library and on-line research
consult various kinds of sources
use databases to find articles in journals (ex. ProQuest, JSTOR, EBSCOhost, etc.)
And on-line search engines like Google

Evaluate sources for reliability (esp. important for internet sources)
Who is the writer/organization and what are their credentials?
What point-of-view, perspective, bias does the group, person display?
Who and/or what does the writer reference in the material?
When was the material uploaded?

Take notes as you go
For citation and usability; also to avoid plagiarism
Attempt to find the source’s thesis statement (or construct one)

Essay Two
Same structure as Essay One
Intro
Expo (focused on the source)
Analysis (a series of paragraphs focused on the text)
Conclusion
The only difference is that students are responsible for finding a secondary source

Basics of Film Analysis
Film tells a story with sight and sound
To find evidence for analysis, isolate a particular scene and play it at least twice
Once to focus on sight elements, once to focus on sound elements
Sight elements
Costuming, lighting, makeup, props, performance, setting
Sound elements
Dialogue, music, sound effects
Evidence will either be in the form of description (of costuming, lighting, makeup, etc.)
or quotation of dialogue, narration (or words seen onscreen)

O Brother, Where Art Thou?
Collect evidence using a scene from the film
The first scene (after the opening credits) brings democracy to the fore
Sound
dialogue: “can’t I count on you people” and “who elected you leader”
sound effect: rattle of chains indicates there’s no democracy here
Other sound elements:
Sound effects: dogs yelping blends with squeaking rail cart
music: fiddle opens the scene and acoustic guitar ends it
sound bridge: “The treasure’s still there . . .”
as scene dissolves into the next

Sight
Costume: prison jumpsuits
Hair: greasy
Make-up: grit and grime
   Everett’s mustache – Clark Gable (Rhett Butler, GwtW)
Lighting: Pete and Delmar shaded, Everett gets the light
   Because he’s the main character, protagonist, hero
Note: Everett’s face is half in light, half shaded as the blind man
tells the three their fortunes
   How much does Everett know? How much does he keep hidden?
Pete and Delmar are being enlightened by the old man
But notice the direction of the light as scene ends

Focus on a scene: collect evidence, then write an analytical paragraph