

English 112  
Dr. Newmark

**Final Research Paper**  
**Eight to Ten Pages, with a Works Cited page as an additional page**

**Important dates:**

First draft due for Peer Review: Wednesday, November 16th,  
Paper topic/thesis/research sources presentations: the week of November 28th  
Final Draft of Research Paper Due: Monday, December 5th

For your final paper, please identify a theme from Cather's "Tom Outland's Story" that has prominent intersections/resonance with another reading we've done this term. Tom Outland is an American-born young man whose adventures in the American southwest, our very own region, speak to a great many of the issues we've considered this term, including environmental protection, connections of individuals and communities to land and family, roles of mothers/fathers/men/women/families, opportunities for inclusion as a member of an American national family, potential for the growth of a cohesive national narrative, the impact of "other" cultures on a national sense of self, the impact of the stark environments/landscapes of our nation on "us" as a people, protecting places and people . . . the ideas abound!

Your job in this research paper is to write a **proposal argument** that addresses a manageable aspect of your broader topic as it affects a particular group of people. Please follow the guidelines for "proposal arguments" that I have posted on our website. Viable thesis statements might begin with phrases such as "Cather's 'Tom Outland's Story' teaches us [or another more specific group] that we should . . ." or "Tom's experience on the Blue Mesa shows how Americans of all kinds can and should . . ." Of course, in a proposal argument, you can instead argue a "should not" statement, so bear that in mind.

For this essay, you will need to do considerable research, to support your argument and to demonstrate that you understand opposing viewpoints. In addition to using "Tom Outland's Story," you will need to use **one more primary text** from our course (this can be an essay we have read as a class or another essay that is in our textbook but that was not assigned). Also, you must include an additional **four secondary research** sources. All four sources must come from scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. Please be sure that you introduce each source in full – with author name and article title – before you quote from it. You must quote from each source at least twice. Do not use online dictionaries or encyclopedias as sources in this paper (*that means Wikipedia! So, unlike before, you cannot use it this time*). Above your two primary texts and your four scholarly sources, you can use two additional sources of any kind (except for those I prohibited above).

Good luck! Be sure to begin thinking about the issue you wish to consider immediately. As you can see, you not only have a paper draft and a final paper to do, but a presentation as well.

*In your presentation, you must introduce your issue, forecast the proposal you are making, offer your thesis, explain the community the issue concerns, and offer a brief discussion of those in favor of your proposal and those potentially against it. You must also mention your four scholarly sources.*