The Research Paper

Critical Question: Your essay will answer the following question. If you would prefer to answer a different critical question, you must obtain permission from your professor.

* How does Sacha Scoblic's account of her own experience coincide with and/or deviate from current research on the nature of alcoholism?

Research: To gain some biological, psychological, and clinical background on this question, use the resources of the DCCC library to find AT LEAST THREE appropriate secondary sources:

* Books: Search the DCCC library catalog here: https://catalog.dccc.ecu.edu/

* Articles: Search DCCC databases here: http://libguides.dccc.edu/a-z

Sources that are NOT appropriate for this assignment include:

* Wikipedia or other general reference websites or books, including encyclopedias.

* Random websites found by commercial search engines such as Google.

* SparkNotes, CliffsNotes, or other similar sources.

Main Argument / Thesis: Your main argument will be your own original answer to the critical question posed above. Your thesis will be informed by your close reading of the memoir, your research, and your own original, interpretive thinking. Your thesis will necessarily be influenced by what others have said, but you must do more than simply reproduce others' ideas. You must use your research to support your own critical evaluation of the memoir and what it attempts to represent.

Analysis: Some of your body paragraphs will be close analyses of particular passages in the memoir (your primary source), while others will present the information you have found in your outside research (your secondary sources). It is up to you to find a way to present both your secondary research and your original analysis of the memoir in an organized manner. I strongly suggest constructing an outline before you begin drafting.

Reference: You must use direct quotations both from Unwasted itself and at least 3 appropriate, secondary research sources throughout your paper. You must cite all quotations and paraphrases using MLA citation style. A "Works Cited" page must be included at the end of your paper, and this also should be formatted according to MLA style. Be sure to see me, a librarian, or a tutor, if you need help with MLA style.

Length: Your essay should be at least 1,500 words in length.
Recommendations:

- As you work on this essay, check in with me periodically to make sure you are on the right track. I'm happy to give you feedback on any of the following:
  - Your research sources—are they appropriate?
  - Your thesis—is it strong? Is it original? Does it go beyond what your research sources say?
  - Your outline—is it organized? Does it have a clear structure? Does it indicate what will be the focus of each paragraph?
  - Your rough draft—what parts are confusing, unconvincing, or disorganized?

Grading Rubric: 200 Points

Content: 100
- 20 points for an insightful and original thesis statement
- 40 points for an effective use of secondary sources
- 40 points for close, textual analysis of primary source

Organization: 40
- 10 points for an effective introduction
- 10 points for focused and developed body paragraphs
- 10 points for body paragraphs that flow (well-arranged with transitions)
- 10 points for an effective conclusion

Proofreading and Formatting: 40
- 20 points for eloquence, clarity, and professionalism
- 20 points for proper MLA formatting

Process: 20
- 10 points for submitting a tentative Works Cited page on time
- 10 points for submitting a rough draft to SMARTHINKING