

# 六六大顺



## Word Inquiry Research Paper

### Short Assignment 2

Due: Thursday, April 14

*"You cannot step twice into the same river."*

-Heraclitus

#### Description:

Inquiry involves a process of investigation with evidence that leads to a claim, rather than starting with a claim and looking for evidence to support what you've already decided your claim *should* be. Choose one word and follow a line of inquiry about its meaning to different people. What do these differences and tensions mean, and what are the stakes involved in recognizing these differences?

Keep in mind that different discourse communities often have very specialized vocabulary or ways of talking about issues related to their experiences. You can use this as an opportunity to explore a word that you've noticed being used differently in your major than how people outside are using it. You could also choose a word across languages with translation options. Alternatively, you could choose a word you're simply curious about and to focus on the process of inquiry itself as a practice, which can be transferred to other writing situations.

#### Your paper should include:

1. **2-3 pages** double spaced, 12-point Times font, 1-inch margins, MLA format, source citations
2. You should include definitions from multiple **dictionaries** and **survey data** as your evidence. (Merriam-Webster, Oxford, Urban Dictionary, Online Etymology Dictionary, etc.)
3. Make a **claim** relating to this word and how people are using it. Your argumentative paper should be 2-3 pages long and include a claim, counterclaim (or multiple perspectives), evidence, stakes, and a roadmap.
4. Include a copy of your survey questions as an **Appendix** after your **Works Cited** page.

#### Your "Heads Up" statement should include:

1. 1 page MLA format, explaining the rhetorical situation and your decisions in the paper
2. **Identify an audience** for your paper. Who needs to know about this word, and why is it important for them to know it? How does this impact your composition decisions?
3. What about the dictionaries and survey participants might be causing them to interpret or use this word differently? How does this impact your composition decisions?

#### Example topics from previous students:

"six" in Chinese culture, which younger generations are reinterpreting for chat in online gaming  
"jihad" as used in English media, which confuses its meaning for Muslims and non-Muslims  
"blue" in Japanese, which represents both English green and blue (and positive associations)  
"drone," which is not technically accurate to describe remotely controlled aircraft that are not weapons (need more accurate vocabulary like "multicopters" from an engineering perspective)