History 190u  
Power, Culture, and the FBI

Matthew Lasar, lecturer

Date:

Student name:

Title: *Prospectus for an essay on the FBI files of [insert name here]*

Content: A double spaced, two-page biography of the individual or organization or entity that you intend to write about for History 190u. The bio should first cover the history of the subject from beginning to the present, or beginning to end. An opening for the prospectus might read as so (I totally made up the following):

“For my History 190u essay I propose to write about the surveillance of Buddy Bukowski, who lived from 1935 through 1977. During those years Bukowski dominated and profoundly influenced American and world popular literature. The Federal Bureau of Investigation kept a record of him from 1955 through 1957, which largely focused on his military service.

Bukowski was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the son of a sheet metal worker and a school teacher.[[1]](#endnote-1) He attended Catholic school until age 17, when he enrolled in Yale University on scholarship. This biography section should continue for at least three more paragraphs.

Various FBI officials expressed concern that the Army had given Bukowski a post with a public relations division at Fort Worth. They questioned the Army’s judgment, given Bukowski’s lewd and provocative writings. This paper will focus on how the government kept track of Bukowski and what they placed in his file. I find this subject interesting because . . .

Next the paper should contain a bibliography. It should consist of around five relevant books and at least two journal articles obtained from the Jstor database. Your bibliography should look something like this:

*Bibliography*

John Smith, *Book One* (New York: Penguin, 2006)

Mary Smith, *Book One* (New York: Penguin, 2006)

Ellen Smith, *Book One* (New York: Penguin, 2006)

Fred Smith, *Book One* (New York: Penguin, 2006)

Lucy Smith, *Book One* (New York: Penguin, 2006)

John D. Kelly, “Journal article one,” in *Yada Yada Yada whatever anthology*, ed. John D. Kelly et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 77.

2. Kelly, “Seeing Red,” 81–82.

Don’t forget to use the Chicago Manual of Style for references.

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\_citationguide.html

Do not worry if you cannot immediately find the most relevant books and journal articles. Do a library database search and pick what seems most immediately useful in terms of biography and background for your subject. You will find more content later.

Your prospectus will be graded on its degree of professionalism, its clarity, and its avoidance of the passive verbs “is,” “are,” “was,” and “were.” I permit you to use just one of these verbs in your entire prospectus, as I have used just one in this sample document.

Please use endnotes for your prospectus, as per the next page.

Endnotes

1. Morris Schlebotnick, *Buddy Bukowski, A Life* (New York: Harper and Row, 1977), 34. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)