Writing in DH Class 2 Questions

What is the most effective way to outline?
Every writer is different, but what works for me is to lay out all my evidence and quotes in separate documents. I print each one out and lay them on the floor. I then try to arrange them in a way that makes sense for my argument. Essentially, I am trying to see if I laid out this evidence in this order, would someone logically come to a similar conclusion.

How to write in a completely formal voice?
You want to remove strong words from your writing that make it seem more opinionated. For example, you want to avoid words like these:
- Secret
- Confidential
- Controversial
- Forbidden
- Banned
- Proven
- Quick
- Remarkable

The best way to find these types of words is to read opinion pieces in the newspaper and compare it to the language in reporting. You will find words and phrases that differentiate these two genres. Reporting is formal writing.

How long would the writing process take for a 1500-word essay?
It is different for everyone, but for me, it takes about 15 hours or three days to create a well-researched and polished piece of writing that long.

How do I cite in-text?
MLA is quite easy! As humanists, we are concerned about who is writing and where the piece of information is coming from. Often times, we use a simple format like (Grant 1) or if you are citing multiple works by the same author, you use the work instead ("Day Two Questions" 1). Short answer is it depends on the source and the paper. Here are some general guidelines:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_in_text_citations_the_basics.html

We will review this more in class.

How many pages should a paper for my class be?
I like to use word count, because font and spacing can vary from word processor and machine. In general, most of the unit assignments will be 4-5 pages or 1200-1500 words.

Citing is complex, I am worried about it.
Don't be worried! When in doubt, just cite it! The Tar Heel Writing Guide will guide you through this (Section 2-3). MLA has its own website on its format: https://style.mla.org
In general, you want to have an in-text citation and a longer citation in the works cited at the end of your paper.

Methods of organizing paragraphs?
Once I have a draft, I like to cut up my paragraphs and give them to someone else. I ask them to put them in an order that makes sense to them. I also like to reverse outline:
https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/reverse-outline/

How do I expand my repertoire of vocabulary?
Reading more! The number one thing that has expanded my vocabulary is reading. Most importantly is to closely read the scholars and works associated with your topic. You will learn the genre conventions and the words the discourse community likes to use most frequently.

What will I be writing about in this class?
Most of the writing prompts will be about computational literary studies. The Da article will give you a good introduction to that academic conversation. Please look at the Unit 1 overview for more details.

What are the most popular genres chosen for research?
The three most common genres for communicating research are the poster, the conference paper, and the journal article. In digital humanities, it is blogs, online articles, and posters (which are the three genres we are composing in for this class).

How many times should I revise my writing?
After you have a full draft, you should take a good look at least three times before turning it in.

What is the most challenging part of shifting your writing from high school to college?
Incorporating more evidence and "they say" in your writing.

How do I cite?
You will learn more after reading the Tar Heel Writing Guide Section 2-3, Outcome 4 (which you read for Wednesday's class). In general, you create an in-text citation on a specific piece of evidence (like 50% of students say..) or when you paraphrase a section of an article or take a quote from an article and place it within your paper. After you do that, you create a larger citation in the Works Cited at the end of your paper.