

ASSIGNMENT 3 – RESEARCH REPORT

Topic Statement Research Report – Preparation Part 1

Due in Class: Friday, January 26th

Length: ~1 page (no longer than 2 is necessary)

This topic statement will help you guide you in your research. It is a description of the topic subject you are interested in, what questions you are interested in answering and a tentative plan for what you may do. First you must identify your subject, e.g. sea level rise and coastal impact, and then briefly describe the phenomena and it's relation to global environmental change. Second you must explain what research question drives the paper and how you propose to go about finding answers to that question. You will use your topic statement description to help you decide on the types of sources you will include in your annotated bibliography (see below). The topic statement allows you to take advantage of any advice I may have for you before you go ahead with your research and source collection for the bibliography. The final product should be approximately 1 page in length (a little longer is ok, but you won't need 2 full pages). That gives you ample space to describe your general topic and a question and explain how you plan on answering that question.

An example starting question related to sea level rise would be: "How will coastal communities in the United States mitigate the impact of sea level rise?" You could then focus your question further, to a specific region, a specific type of management style (e.g., analyze cases of cities or towns that have had to deal with coastal flood waters which would be similar to raising sea level), or discuss the numbers of individuals/communities who would be impacted and how the communities would have to relocate looking at the social, psychological and family issues this could cause; there are also the economic issues such as loss of farmland and loss of businesses.

As you can see there are many dimensions to even a single question related to sea level rise. Imagine how many questions you can come up with if you consider all of the environmental change issues we've already discussed. Remember our 'Finding the Question' in-class activity in which we viewed topics and ideas from everyone in the class?

Annotated Bibliography Research Report – Preparation Part 2

Due in Class: Monday, February 2nd

Length: ~4-5 pages (8 sources, about ½ page per source)

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited. Note that these are not abstracts; abstracts are the purely descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or in periodical indexes. Annotations are descriptive and critical; they expose the author's point of view, clarity and

appropriateness of expression and authority. You will use your annotated bibliography to help you develop your research plan.

You must have a **minimum of 7 sources**, using a variety of types. You must have at least 5 resources outside of the materials you have used in this class. Outside resources may mean books and articles, but is not limited to them. Resources may also mean films, interviews, artwork, as well as other things I may not have thought of. This whole sequence of assignments and activities is designed to encourage you to use writing as part of your research process, to use writing to help you learn. Refer to your “Pyramid of Source” handout for a quick guide to the types of resources available and their expected level of specialization and authoritativeness.

You must have at least:

2 books (scholarly or trade (popular))

3 peer reviewed articles (at least one being a scientific article)

The remaining two (or more) are your choice. The types of references you choose will depend on the research subject and topic question you are addressing. Use the following format:

- Sources should be listed in alphabetical order by last name of the author or lead author.
- Begin each entry with a bibliographic reference (author, title, publication info) using MLA format. Single space please.
- Skip a line, or indent, and then include the following information about each source:
 1. Identify the author(s) (e.g., a journalist, a former election campaign chairperson, an editor, fiction writer) and the publisher (e.g., a university press, a popular commercial press, a press sponsored by a political organization, a web publisher)
 2. Why do you think they wrote the piece? (e.g., for intellectual purposes, for political purposes, to earn money...NOTE: there may be a combination of motives)
 3. Does the author or publisher have a stake in the controversy or issue you are addressing?
 4. Did the piece use solid logic and ample evidence to support the argument
 5. Considering these factors, how would you assess the overall reliability of the piece?

If you have trouble answering any of these questions please come and talk with me. See your writing guide/style book, handouts or online for citations help (MLA form).

The following guides will help you write the annotations

1. “UCSC Library – How to use the MLA Style Guide”
http://library.ucsc.edu/ref/howto/mla_citations.html
2. “Evaluating Information Found on the Internet” (from John Hopkins University Library).
<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/index.html>
3. “Evaluation of information sources (WWW Virtual Library, a cooperative academic site)
http://www.vuw.ac.nz/staff/alastair_smith/evaln/evaln.htm
4. “The ICYouSee Guide to Critical Thinking About What you See on the Web” (Ithaca College Library) <http://www.ithaca.edu/library/training/think.html>

ASSIGNMENT 3 – Research Report Preparing a White Paper on your Issue

Draft Due: Friday, February 9th

Final Draft Due: Friday, February 16th

Length: 7-8 pages (not including bibliography)

The purpose of the research report is to involve the students as directly as possible in a concentrated investigation of some particular aspect of the course's subject matter. Successful completion of the research paper will involve competence in the subject chosen (content, coverage), competence in using appropriate methods (assumptions, definitions, approach, consistency), and competence in writing (expression, clarity, organization). You will be writing the research report in the form of a White Paper (Refer to example provided in reader and notes from class). You will be providing this report as a briefing to a CEO of an international company that is concerned with environmental issues. The CEO has asked for a comprehensive report on the subject matter you have chosen to write about. To fulfill his needs you will need to keep in mind that a research report, or white paper, is more than the sum of your sources, more than a collection of different pieces of information about a topic, and more than a simple review of the literature in a field. There are several purposes for research reports including analyzing perspectives or arguing a point. For this assignment you will be analyzing a perspective.

By analysis I mean breaking a topic or concept down into its parts in order to inspect and understand it, and to restructure those parts in away that makes sense to you. In an analytical research paper, you do research to become an expert on a topic so that you can restructure and present the parts of the topic from your own perspective.

For example, you could analyze the role energy plays in an American family. You could break down that topic into its parts—the production of food (agriculture), transportation usage, home and other uses—and research those parts in order to present your general perspective and conclusion about how the American family uses energy. You could bring in information about how families in other countries use energy.

Your finished research paper should present your own thinking backed up by others' ideas and information. When you write a research paper you build upon what you know about the subject and make a deliberate attempt to find out what experts know. A research paper involved surveying a field of knowledge in order to find the best possible information in the field.

Your paper should include the following:

- An informative and interesting TITLE
- An introduction to your subject and question
- Citations of sources integrated throughout the text using MLA format
- A conclusion section reviewing what you discussed throughout the paper
- BIBLIOGRAPHY- in MLA format
- First Draft – Cover Sheet
- Final Draft – Revise Cover Sheet

Assignment 3 – Research Paper Details

Main Readings: 7 researched sources: 2 books, 3 peer-reviewed articles, 2 or more of your choice

Your Role: Critical Analysts and Synthesizer of Current Thinking

Your Assignment: To write a research report that presents your own thinking backed up by others' ideas and information to inform your audience.

Topic Statement Due: Friday, January 26th

Annotated Bibliography Due: Monday, February 2nd

Draft Due: Friday, February 9th (4 copies, 1 for instructor, 2 for peer review, 1 for you)

Final Draft Due: Friday February 16th

Form: Analytic Research Paper

Audience: CEO of an international company concerned with environmental issues

Length: 7-8 pages (2100-2400 words)

Format Details: Double-spaced, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, 1 ¼" margins all around, single sided pages

Format General: Name, date and class in upper left hand corner, title centered and bolded, bibliography at end, MLA style

Citations: MLA format (see handouts and writing guide)

Cover Sheets: Attached to front of draft and final versions on designated due dates.

ASSIGNMENT 3

Research Report Draft

Cover Sheet

1. ***What is your purpose in this paper?*** In other words, what specific idea or claim do you want your readers to think, feel, believe, or understand as a result of reading your paper?

2. ***What are the strengths of this paper? What are you pleased with?***

3. ***What difficulties did you face in responding to this assignment? How did you deal with them?***

4. ***Requested Critique:*** Point out at least three aspects of your paper you would especially like me to comment on; these can be things that you had trouble with, or things that went well, or something you would like to know how to do/

(a)

(b)

(c)

Checklist: Make sure you...

- Have a title for your paper that reflects your subject and informs your reader
- Includes a Bibliography section using MLA format

ASSIGNMENT 3
Research Report FINAL Draft
Cover Sheet

Paper Title: _____

1. What about the purpose or content of this paper changed between the first draft and this final version? How did you clarify your points, tighten up your structure, make your purpose clearer?

2. Do you think your revisions have significantly improved your draft? Why/why not? Please list what you changed specifically by page and paragraph.

3. What did you learn or get out of rewriting and revising this paper?

4. Critique: What three questions would you like me to respond to about your final paper?

(a)

(b)

(c)

5. Are there any other specific kinds of comments you would like me to provide?