

# Senior Project Research Paper Fall 2013

It's important to understand this is an essay, not a report. Though the directions segregate the "parts" of the essay, and delineate the order and arrangement of information, the final product must read as a single, cohesive college-level essay.

## **Section 1 The Project [Intro Paragraph(s)] (your words)\***

- An abstract stating the focus of your research
  - ½ page minimum clear concise synopsis of what you will do/produce to meet your goal. Most of this section will be used to:
    - Establish a focus for your research RIGHT NOW.
    - Form a basis for the discussion portion of your Project Presentation
  - Make up the bulk of the Project Overview section for your portfolio

\*You may use "I" in this section of the paper

## **Section 2 (background info) The Relevant Findings\***

- Requirements: 10(+) Refereed, Scholarly or Trade Journals as your authoritative sources.
  - Other, secondary, sources should still be authoritative and worthy of a college paper, but may be from more "common" sources not strictly Refereed or Scholarly.
- Formerly the research paper, this is a much more concentrated paper that only focuses on the findings relevant to conducting the project.
  - 3-4 pages (your words, their ideas, no original thought)
  - Citations: full, *in-text MLA citations* for all facts above common knowledge. (If you can find a fact in 3 publications and it is not cited, you don't need to cite it either.)
- This will be difficult. You need to get 3-4 pages of useful material that you will apply to your project, and you will tell *how you plan to apply it* in the next section.

\*You may not use "I" in this section

## **Section 3 (Analysis & Application) The Plan for Application \***

- Approximately 2 pages (+/-) detailing how will you apply your relevant findings (section 2) *to your specific project*. In-text citations, and insightful analysis and commentary are expected.
  - It is critical to have a very good idea of what you are doing for your project before doing this paper, otherwise, you will not be able to decide which of the facts you are finding are relevant.

- Constantly ask, “How can I use this information? What other information do I need to know?” Picture doing the project, what things will happen as you work on it that you need to learn about?
- If your answer is nothing, then you don’t have a “learning stretch” and your project should not have been approved.
- This is a specialized paper.
  - Now the play director can research a few lighting techniques, methods of getting actors involved in the audience (ala murder mystery) and correct costuming for the period of the piece. S/he can research methods of using multiple casts vs using understudies, pros and cons all in the same paper. However it will make for very diverse reading so...
  - Consider why you are choosing to include information, you will need to explain why you researched the areas you did in your introduction.
    - Sample you may use/modify: “I researched \_\_\_\_\_ because I anticipate \_\_\_\_\_ will happen when doing the senior project and I will need to know how to deal with it. I also wanted to know about \_\_\_\_\_ because it worked so well in the play \_\_\_\_\_ that I watched last summer so I want to do something similar, etc.

\*You may use “I” in this section

#### **Section 4 Works Cited**

- A full, professional, MLA formatted Works Cited page is required for all sources quoted or paraphrased.
  - Use the formatting outlined on Purdue University’s OWL site for MLA formatting.
  - Websites without proper identification information should not be used at all, so look up this information when you find a good article, don’t put it off. If you can’t find the information you will lose points!
  - Formatting costs lots of points every year in this area, don’t put this off until the last minute; work on it as you go.