**Research Consultation**

**Value:** 5% for the consultation (you arrived on time, well-prepared and so on) and 5% for answering the following questions. Don’t let the low stakes percentage of this assignment fool you. If you do this work, you will have a chunk of your research paper completed. This assignment teaches you the preliminary work you need to do for ALL your research in (almost) ANY course (and even in many professional positions outside academia as well).

There are TWO steps to this assignment:

1. A meeting with me.
2. Your final answers to the following questions preferably submitted in Brightspace 24 hours after your consultation meeting. **You can submit these questions up to and no later than March 5th.** The following questions reflect EXACTLY the kind of work you need to perform as a researcher in most courses and even in your professional career!

Your first step is to sign up for a specific time to meet with me to chat about your paper by going to ‘Course Tools’ tab on Brightspace and selecting the ‘Groups’ tab from the drop down menu. Please come to the meeting prepared: If you do, then you will find this meeting helpful and informative. If you don’t, then maybe not so much.

To prepare for our consultation (with a few other students – they may have excellent suggestions!), I strongly suggest write answering the following questions. Then you can refine or change your answers after your appointment with me. Note that your answers will also change as you do more research and thinking. Please do use point form but I need to follow what you are saying so aim for clarity over speed and short-cuts. Note, however, that if you can’t answer these questions, you need to reach out for help **before** our scheduled conference. I can discuss ideas with you during office hours or by appointment, and a campus librarian should be able to offer useful guidance and [they are available by chat, email or phone](https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/ask/index.php#:~:text=Chat%20with%20a%20librarian&text=Text%20your%20brief%20question%20to,for%20answers%20to%20your%20questions.).

1. The **general subject** that interests me is …. (Note that this can be your major or any other academic field or sub-discipline). The specific aspect of this subject that interests me is…. (This is a step toward your thesis so please try to be specific.) Your answer is your topic for your paper.
2. Right now, what I know about this topic is… (This is a chance for you to record your **background knowledge** about this topic. What do you know?)
3. What I need to find out to become better informed about this topic is… (This is the beginning of an **outline**.)
4. The question I want to answer is…. (This is your **research question**.)
5. Right now, my answer to this question is …. because …. (This is your **working thesis** and a very early version of some support for that thesis.)
6. Three different sources of reliable information, with complete citations in MLA or APA and a 2-3 sentence explanation of how you found each source.
   1. Source one citation: add two or three sentences about how you found this source (e.g. you used Google and typed a question; you used the library search bar, you asked a professor, and so on).
   2. Source two citation: add two or three sentences about how you found this source (e.g. you used Google and typed a question; you used the library search bar, you asked a professor, and so on).
   3. Source three citation: add two or three sentences about how you found this source (e.g. you used Google and typed a question; you used the library search bar, you asked a professor, and so on).

(Note that you can list more types of sources here, if you like. This is a very preliminary list of **sources to investigate**.)

1. Please annotate ONE of the three sources above. For more on how to annotate a source for format, please refer to section 2.8 of your textbook: <https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/whywriteguide/chapter/sub-genres/>).
2. One thing that excites me about working on this topic is… and one thing that worries me about working on this topic is…
3. **To be completed after talking with me at the research consultation.**

Please summarize your proposed topic in approximately 100 to 250 words in complete sentences and in your own words. Write a paragraph, not a series of bullet points. This exercise will give you a start toward your research paper. Perhaps you will even end of up with a draft introduction and thesis! You need to include the following information in your summary:

1. What your proposed topic is and your position on that topic.
2. Explain the topic and your position (claim) in one or two sentences.
3. Briefly discuss how one or two scholars support your ideas and cite them.
4. Then close with a sentence or two about what you expect to find from your research (your potential findings, such as “I am hopeful that by researching x and y, I will discover that….).

**Grading Rubric:**

**A level grade (80-100%)**  
An A level grade exceeds expectations. The student attends the research consultation prepared insofar as they have completed the required research consultation questions in a way that demonstrates thoughtfulness and care. They might, for example, come with additional questions or concerns about their topic. They also engage with their peers, raising questions or offering suggestions. In short, they participate in this consultation in a way that demonstrates engagement and attention.

The submitted document (The Research Consultation Questions) is complete, with no elements missing or overlooked. The sources are relevant, well-chosen, and cited correctly in MLA or APA, and the annotation demonstrates an understanding of the summary conventions and is written in a way that demonstrates engagement and understanding of the annotated text. The summary proposal presents a topic that sets up a paper to make an argument and is appropriate to the size and scope of the paper, and it engages with current scholarship in the field. There also may be evidence that the student has tweaked or adjusted their topic based on feedback from the consultation. The writing is not only pleasurable to read, but also facilitates reading and considers audience.

**B level grade (70-79)**  
A B level grade meets assignment expectations. The student attends the research consultation prepared insofar as they have completed the required research consultation questions and are able to propose a topic. They listen to their peers when they are speaking, and perhaps make a general comment such as “this sounds good.” In short, they participate in this consultation in a  
way that is respectful. The submitted document (The Research Consultation Questions) is complete, with no elements  
missing or overlooked. The sources are relevant and cited correctly in MLA or APA, and the annotation demonstrates an understanding of the summary conventions. The summary proposal presents a topic that will facilitate making an argument and cites one or two sources. The writing facilitates reading and considers audience.

**C level grade (60-69%)**  
A C level grade meets most of the assignment expectations. The student attends the research  
consultation somewhat prepared. They have completed the required research consultation  
questions and are able to propose a topic, but answers may be extremely short or superficial,  
or some questions may be skipped. They listen to their peers when they are speaking.

The submitted document (The Research Consultation Questions) is complete, with no elements  
missing or overlooked, but some answers may be extremely short or superficial. The sources  
are there but may have errors in citation. The annotation demonstrates an understanding of  
the summary conventions but may be overly short or rest at the level of generality. The  
summary proposal presents a topic but may need some further guidance. The summary  
proposal may also not incorporate feedback given in the research consultation. The proposal  
also may not cite scholarship or may cite inappropriate sources. The writing may hinder  
readability at times, but not so much as to compromise comprehension.

**D level grade (50-59%)**

A D level marginally meets assignment expectations. The student attends the research  
consultation but comes unprepared. They may have completed some of the research  
consultation questions, but have difficulty proposing a topic, and answers may be extremely short or superficial, or some questions may be skipped. There is no evidence of engagement with peers or the instructor.

The submitted document (The Research Consultation Questions) is mostly complete but may  
be missing some superficial elements. The sources are there but may have errors in citation. The annotation demonstrates an understanding of the summary conventions but may be overly short or rest at the level of generality. The summary proposal presents a topic but may need some further guidance. The summary proposal may also not incorporate feedback given in the research consultation. The proposal does not cite scholarship or may cite inappropriate sources. The writing may hinder readability at times, but not so much as to compromise comprehension.

**F (49% or below)**  
An F does not fulfill the assignment expectations. The student does not attend the researchconsultation or make alternate arrangements with the instructor. The submitted document (The Research Consultation Questions) is incomplete, missing significant components of the assignment. The summary proposal does not present a topic, nor does it incorporate feedback given in the research consultation. The proposal does not cite scholarship or may cite inappropriate sources. The writing hampers comprehension in serious way.

I am looking forward to learning more about your research!