**Research Conference Worksheet**

*Before* you come to your 1-on-1 conference with me

* Use Microsoft Word to write up your answers to these questions, and
* Upload what you’ve written to Blackboard before 11:59pm on Sunday, 3/1, and
* Bring a printed coy of your answers with you to our 1-on-1 conference.

Our 15 minutes will mostly be taken up with you talking and me occasionally asking questions.

Be prepared to discuss your answers to these questions:

1. What is the problem or situation that you are writing about?
2. What *recent* evidence have you found that your topic is a problem that needs to be solved or a situation that needs to be addressed?
3. What is the relatively recent history of your topic? When did it become seen as contemporary problem that needs to be solved or a contemporary situation that needs to be addressed? What were the key events in the relatively recent history of debates about your topic? (Answer this question with information you’ve gathered through research; don’t write something vague like “For a long time, people have….”)
4. What are the most recent news stories about your topic?
5. Who – specifically (use names) – has the power to do something about your topic? These could be people, institutions, agencies, corporations…
6. What are the different opinions about your topic and what to do about it?
7. Who – specifically (use the names of people who have something to do about your topic) – holds these different opinions?
8. Do you have an opinion yet about what needs to be done? What is that opinion? What makes it better than the others that are out there?