Project 2: Research and Inquiry

**Draft Due:** March 19th **Project Due:** March 26th

\*\*NOTE\*\* All work is due at the beginning of class.

You must both hand in a printed version of the assignment and post it on the class OpenLab site.

**\*\***Please Do NOT\*\* wait until the last minute to ask me questions. Come and visit me during office hours or email me during the week with questions.

The Assignment

We are beginning a research and inquiry process that will span Units 2 and 3. Your topic will be used in both Units 2 and 3.

You will choose **a topic** that is of interest to you and investigate the topic. The topic can be on an urgent current event or an issue related to your community or NYC. Examples of possible topics could be: college tuition, public transportation, traffic safety (bike safety, Vision Zero), sanitation, supermarkets, gentrification, etc. It is important when choosing the topic, to understand that as part of your research on the topic, you will be asked to identify a **problem** and to use your research to propose **a solution** to the problem.

1. **Gather Research**

Find **at least 4 sources** on your topic. These sources must **vary in genre** and some should be primary sources. Your sources must come from at least 3 different genres (For example: interview, scientific article, popular article, podcast, scholarly article, op-ed, advertisement, biography, blog, TED Talk, song, etc.).

2.  **Present Your Research**

You will prepare a short oral presentation on one of the research pieces you found and share it with the class. The focus should be on the Rhetorical Situation (audience, purpose), how the author presents the information, and a brief summary of the piece. Explain why you chose the piece and what the information teaches you about your topic.

**Due March 12th**

1. **Annotated Bibliography**

For each of the 4 sources, you will determine the credibility of the source, analyze, evaluate and synthesize the information and craft **an annotated bibliography** for the sources. The focus should be on both the content, *what the author is saying*, (ex. the author’s claim, strength of the argument, persuasive techniques) and the author’s craft, *how the author presents the information* (writing techniques, voice, tone, etc.). You will *describe* each of the sources and the role you expect it to play in your research and *evaluate* the source with a focus on credibility, bias, and strength of message. The annotated bibliography should be at least **1200 words (at least 300 words per source).**

What is an annotated bibliography? An annotated bibliography is list of sources with complete bibliographical information (following MLA citation format) and an annotated description of each source. Annotated bibliographies contain:

* A brief summary and description of each source that identifies it topic, stance and any other key information
* An evaluation of the source that looks at its credibility
* Information about how you will use the source and how it will provide an important perspective you need to consider
* A consistent and concise presentation

1. **Add an Introduction and Conclusion**

What is the *problem* that you identified in your community or NYC? What *solution* can you propose to address this problem? You will craft an introduction and conclusion to your annotated bibliography that lays out the problem and solution connected to your topic. The introduction and conclusion should be at least **400 words.**

* Introduction:
  + Introduce and define the problem you are addressing
    - What is the urgency of addressing this issue right now?
    - What sources have you used to gather research on the issue?
    - How do these sources contribute to your understanding of the topic?
* Conclusion:
  + Explain your proposed solution and how it will work.
    - Who is your audience? Who needs to be convinced? Why is this necessary and important? What are the challenges?
  + Write a strong and persuasive call to action that leaves your audiences ready to act or change their thinking!

Format

The assignment must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman Font. It must be double- spaced and have one-inch margins. You must include word counts at the top of the assignment. Total word count should be at least **1600 words.**

Grading Criteria

1. **Content and Required elements.** Do you have an annotated bibliography that includes all of your sources that is **at least 1200** words? Do you have an introduction and conclusion that is **at least 400 words**? Do you define the problem and explain the solution? Do you have a strong and compelling call to action?
2. **Research**. Did you dig deep in your research and find relevant and credible sources? Does your research match answer your research questions? Did you learn key information about your topic? Do you have 4 sources on your topic? Do you have at least 3 different genres of sources?
3. **Presentation and Formatting.** Do you have all of the required pieces? Have you revised and edited for clarity, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Is each element properly formatted? Does it look presentable and appropriate? Does its appearance match its intended audience?
4. **Citations.** Is your bibliography properly cited? Do you cite all your sources using the MLA format?

Learning Objectives

1. Read and listen critically and analytically in a variety of genres and rhetorical situations: Identify and evaluate exigencies, purposes, claims, supporting evidence, and underlying assumptions in a variety of texts, genres, and media.
2. Adapt to and compose in a variety of genres: Adapt writing conventions in ways that are suitable to different exigencies and purposes in a variety of contexts, including academic, workplace, and civic audiences. When appropriate, repurpose prior work to new genres, audiences, and media by adjusting delivery, design, tone, organization, and language.
3. Use research as a process of inquiry and engagement with multiple perspectives: Learn to focus on a topic and develop research questions that lead to propositions and claims that can be supported with well-reasoned arguments. Persuasively communicate and repurpose research projects across a variety of contexts, purposes, audiences, and media. Demonstrate research skills through attribution and citation gathering, evaluating, and synthesizing both primary and secondary sources. Learn how to use appropriate citation styles depending on disciplinary and situational requirements (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.).
4. Use reflection and other metacognitive processes to revise prior assumptions about reading and writing and transfer acquired knowledge into new writing situations. Students write reflections of their own reading and writing process from the beginning and throughout the semester with the intention to transfer their acquired knowledge about genre and composing practices into new writing situations.
5. Demonstrate the social and ethical responsibilities and consequences of writing: Recognize that first-year writing includes academic, workplace, and civic contexts, all of which require careful deliberation concerning the ethical and social ramifications concerning fairness, inclusivity, and respect for diversity. Write and revise for academic and broader, public audiences accordingly.