ENG1121, E115

Response paper 7 – focused research

Due: Apr 5

Often, the most difficult component of approaching a research project is figuring out how to answer the project’s prompt while also writing about a topic that interests you. Common missteps include selecting topics that are too broad or too narrow; too esoteric or too obvious; or too complicated or too basic.

With response paper 7 we will begin thinking about how to approach research topics. Over the past few classes, we have read/viewed and discussed four selections: Steve Jobs’ “Do What You Love”; Jeff Haden’s “Do What You Love #@&\*\* That!”; Carl McCoy’s “Dear Grads: Don’t Do What You Love”; and Miya Tokumitsu’s “In the Name of Love.”

This assignment asks you to CONSIDER (but not answer) prompt #8 on page 476, copied here for your reference with *emphasis added*: “Research and report on one jobs-related aspect of the ‘Great Recession’ of December 2007-June 2009, the most significant downturn in the American economy since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Here are five jobs-related topics on which you might report: *(1)* ‘underemployment’; *(2)* the fate of older laid-off workers; *(3)* the impact of the recession on American youth employment; *(4)* job losses in the industries and businesses hardest hit by the recession; *(5)* the emergence of ‘Top 10’ (or 8 or 20, etc.) lists of ‘recession-proof’ jobs.”

For this assignment, please rank the five proposed topics listed in prompt #8 from MOST to LEAST promising. Following each of your rankings, describe one of the topic’s strengths and one of its weaknesses. Your responses should be written in full sentences but may appear in list form. For example:

1. ‘underemployment’
   1. One strength of this topic is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. A weakness I foresee is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. the fate of older laid-off workers
   1. One great advantage of researching this topic is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. I could see \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ being a big hurdle.

Your response must be no more than 2 pages.

During the course of your work, it is strongly suggested that you review page 200 of our textbook, mining the “Narrowing the Topic via Research” call-out box for helpful advice.