**Unit 2: Research Project Assignment RAB (1800 words)**

**Reflective Annotative Bibliography on the Impact of the Corona Virus Pandemic on Life**

How is the Corona Virus pandemic impacting the world? How has the virus disrupted your life? What changes -- big or small -- are you noticing in the world around you? A glance at the front page of The New York Times or any other paper right now will show you that this global pandemic is impacting everything from the world economy to our social rituals. It is raising questions about our daily lives from how we work, how we learn, how we get around the city, to how we socialize and have fun. There are also bigger issues such as what responsibilities governments have to prepare for pandemics and keep the citizens informed; how we care for our most vulnerable people. The virus has exposed and widened the socio-economic gap. It has [fueled racism and xenophobia](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/30/world/asia/coronavirus-chinese-racism.html).

**THE RESEARCH QUESTION**

For Unit 2 Research Project **you will choose one (ONLY ONE) aspect of life or society** and examine how the CV has impacted and changed that aspect of life.

**You will formulate one question to investigate**:

For example:

* How has the CV pandemic affected the mental health of teens?
* How has the CV pandemic changed the work world?
* How has the CV pandemic changed the way people socialize?
* How has the CV pandemic exacerbated Anti-Asian racism?
* How has the CV pandemic disproportionately affected the African-American community?
* How has the CV pandemic changed the way certain institutions do business (sports organizations NBA UFC, funeral homes, restaurant)?

**You must fine-tune your question: the more focused your question the better -- but you can start with these possible broad topics:**

How has the CV pandemic changed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ?

1. Socializing / friends family get-togethers / Friendships and maintaining friendships / Dating CHOOSE ONE
2. Learning (remote) / School-life / College (online) CHOOSE ONE
3. Exercise / Staying fit / Sports
4. Transportation / Commuting / Mass Transit / Biking walking / Travel
5. Entertainment / Play / TV & films / Music - concerts / Extra-curricular activities
6. Food / Food production/ Gardening / Eating / Dining in or out / Restaurants / Cooking
7. Medicine / Health / Hygiene / Healthcare / doctor visits
8. Mental and Emotional health / suicide / depression / domestic abuse / laughter / best ways to combat fear and sadness
9. Environment / Climate change – GOOD TOPIC lots of science here
10. INTERNET (should be a utility) / computer use / technology and privacy issues / innovation
11. More belief in science / climate change / belief science experts
12. Shopping
13. Work / Job searching
14. Information Media / The spread of disinformation
15. Society -- Sense of Community / Race Relations / Zenophobia
16. Politics / Voting since we are going into a very important election / importance of Global Efforts / Blue Wave
17. Socio-economic income disparity

## Get some ideas by reading this New York Times article:  "[One Year In A Pandemic](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/14/briefing/one-year-in-a-pandemic.html?searchResultPosition=43)"

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**THE SOURCES**

To conduct your research, you will consult a variety of print and non-print **genres**: newspaper and journal articles, interviews, documentaries, songs, poems, government reports, etc. You will use *reliable* journalism including The New York Times (free subscription with your CUNY email – we signed up at the beginning of semester), The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, The Guardian. You will use news or university videos (ex Univ of Chicago), ted talks, podcasts, or interviews. You will also conduct one original interview. You will use creative art forms such as photographs, poems, songs, music videos. (We will talk about **genre awareness** together.)

You will find 4 FOUR sources. Note: having a variety of **genres -- print and non-print --** is important.

1. One News Report Article
2. One Opinion / Editorial piece
3. One audio or visual source (tedtalk, podcast, interview, documentary or news video clip or university website video) or creative source (poem, song)
4. One Personal Interview with a family member / close friend / expert. You can do phone/zoom interview. You will create a list of questions to ask and write up a paragraph documenting this interview -- or -- write a transcript of the questions and answers.

**THE REFLECTIVE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPH Y (RAB)**

For Unit 2, our goal is to create a reflective annotated bibliography (RAB) of your 4 sources.

* A **bibliography** is a list of sources that one consults in a research process.
* A **Reflective Annotated Bibliography (RAB)** includes more information about each source, including a summary, important quotes, rhetorical analysis, and response.

**What are the parts of a RAB?**

Your annotated bibliography will be approximately 1,800 words and will include the following:

* **Your research question** at the top of the page.
* **An introduction**: introduce your question, explain why this question intrigues you, and say what you expect to find in your research (approx. 300 words).
* **MLA bibliographic citations for three sources. Sources should be listed in alphabetical order by the author’s last name.**
  + You can find more on how to do MLA citations at this [Purdue OWL link](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)and throughout the Purdue OWL site.
  + You can also use Purdue OWL, Easy Bib, or Citation Machine to do your citations—you can google for the second two sites and the first is at the link above.
  + The City Tech Writing Center can also help you with citations. Send an email requesting an appointment to CityTechWritingCenter@gmail.com
* **Three source entries after each bibliographic citation (approx. 300 words). Each entry includes the following:**
  + a summary of the source’s content.
  + a reflection on that source, which includes your *opinion*of what you’ve read.
  + a brief analysis of the author’s writing style: for example, what is the tone and choice of genre? You should also look at the purpose along with the author’s credentials (address why you think the author is credible).
  + a couple of key quotes you might want to use later**.**
* **Your fourth source is a testimony of oral history.** You will interview a family member or close friend (email, phone, zoom).  You will create a list of at least 6 questions to find out more about your research question topic from a first hand experience.  Then you will type up two paragraphs on what you learned.  This is your fourth source.

**Note**: Each of these four sources will be a **different genre**. Examples of genres and media include: newspaper articles, TED Talks, podcasts, personal essays, documentaries, magazine articles, scholarly articles, museum websites, interviews, video, songs, etc.

**A conclusion** (approx. 200-300 words): What did you learn about your topic? How did your thinking change? Why is the research you found important? Who do you think would benefit from your research? What is the importance of your research?

**GETTING STARTED -- PROPOSAL**

Write a paragraph in which you address the following questions:

* What is the topic that interests you? Why does it interest you?
* What do you already know about it? What do you want to explore further and find out?

This paragraph is your proposal now and later will become your **RAB introduction**.

My research question is: How has the CV pandemic impacted and changed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (plug in your research question)? This topic interests me because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (good solid explanation – 3 more sentences) I already know that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (3 more sentences). Some points that I plan to explore and find out more about are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (at least 3 points).

NOTICE: Your proposal should explain a personal reasoning and connection to your RQ. Why are **YOU personally** interested in this RQ? Your proposal is just that a proposal, therefore it is written BEFORE you do the research! Your proposal should not have researching-sounding-speak.

**WORK ON RAB SOURCE ENTRIES**

1. Begin researching your topic and possible sources. What are some possible sources you could consult (newspaper articles, editorials, interviews, podcasts, songs, documentaries)?
2. We will work on each source entry one by one. Two (2) from periodical journalism newspaper. One from an audio or visual or creative source.
3. We will work on the interview: For this interview, write up 6 questions to ask your interviewee. I suggest a family member or friend. Do your interview as your 4th source. You can do phone/zoom interview. Write one to two paragraphs documenting this interview -- or -- write a transcript of the questions and answers.

**FINALLY -- The Conclusion for the Entire RAB Document**

After completing all three (3) of your Source Entries -- RAB Source Entry #1, #2, and #3, you will write a conclusion.

Write a conclusion paragraph for the entire RAB document.

What did you learn about your topic? How did your thinking change? Why is the research you found important? Who or what group would be the ideal audience for your research? Why would this audience benefit from your research? What genre will you choose to present your research?

(at least 250 words)

**What you’ll be graded on:**

* **Content**: Is it readable and informative? Does it teach us about the topic?
* **Research**: Did you dig deep? Were you open to being surprised and contradicted? Did you look further than the first three hits on Google?
* **Genre**: Remember that your three sources must be different genres. And you must have a personal interview.
* **Presentation**: Basically, can someone who is not you make sense of this visually? Did you use subheads for each part (or make other formatting choices) to help a reader make sense of your document?
* **Citation**: If you quote something in your introduction or conclusion that’s from one or more of your sources, be sure to cite it.
* **Grammar, sentence structure, punctuation.**

**MORE BELOW – SCROLL DOWN**

**Note:  Below is a template for your annotated bibliography. This will help you organize and format your annotated bibliography.**

**Annotated Bibliography Template (1200-1800 words total)**

*The document below is designed to help you break down this assignment, so you can clearly see what is expected in each section.*

**Introduction (approx. 200-300 words)**

* Introduce your question.
* Explain how or why you got interested in your question.
* Write this in paragraph format (1-3 paragraphs).

**Source Entries (approx. 200-300 words each).**

**You need three entries plus your personal interview as a fourth entry.**

* Use three sources.
* Organize the sources in alphabetical order by author’s last name.
* Be sure each source is a different genre.
* Include an entry for each source (direction for entries are below).
* Include all four parts for each entry (summary, reflection on the source, analysis of the author’s choice of genre and writing style, and quotes).
* Then your Interview Project -- Include 1-2 paragraph entry that is a summary of what you learned from your interview.

**How do I write an entry?**

**Part 1: MLA Citation**

The first part of your entry will be the MLA style bibliographic citation for your source. The citation gives the publication information, author, date, title, and so forth. There are many websites (like easybib.com) that can help you do this. Here is one example of a citation:

Yang, Andrew. “We Are Not the Virus But We Can Be Part of the Cure.” 1 Apr 2020 *The Washington Post*. The Washington Post. Web. 2 Apr 2020. [www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/01/andrew-yang-coronavirus-discrimination/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/04/01/andrew-yang-coronavirus-discrimination/)

**Part 2: Summary**

For the second part of your entry (right beneath the citation), you will write a summary. This will be useful for remembering what you read. The summary should convey what the author states in the article and **not your opinions**. Write what you think the main point is, but also what you think the most *important*points are (these aren’t always the same.) This is also a good time to make note of what data, facts, and evidence the author uses to support his/her claims, and *how* s/he uses this evidence to arrive at conclusions.

Part 2 Summary will be approximately a paragraph long.

**Part 3: Reflection and Rhetorical/Genre Analysis**

1. In the third part of your entry, you will write a reflection. This part is perhaps the most important part, so don’t skimp here! This is where you respond to the text you’ve read:

* Do you agree or disagree with the information that the author presents? Why or why not? Be specific!
* Find a significant quote.
* What questions do you have about what the author is saying? What don’t you understand?
* What other information do you need to look up to better understand this topic?
* If you could say something to this author, what would you say?
* What does this document tell you about your research question?

1. Also consider rhetorical factors here like the genre, writing style, purpose, and author’s credentials:

* Describe the author’s writing style?
* What is the author’s intended audience and purpose (reason for writing)?
* What is the genre? Is the genre effective? Does the choice of genre make sense for what the author wants to accomplish?
* How do you know this is a credible author and document?

Part 3 will be 1-2 paragraphs.

**Part 4: Notable Quotables**

Quotations: Make a note of at least **two** direct quotes from each source that you feel really exemplifies the document’s claims or interpretations or that you feel is important or useful in some way. Be sure to put the quote in quotation marks and note the page number.

“Put the quoted words here” (Smith 45).

**Your fourth source entry is a little different because it is an original interview.** This is your chance to gather first-hand experience from a relative or friend who is experiencing changes in travel, socializing, racism, or media disinformation -- whatever your topic is -- right now in this time of crisis. Think about what you really want to know. Create a list of 6 questions to ask about their experience of whatever your topic is now during Co-Vid. What are their frustrations? Their positive experiences? What do they hope will change about \_\_\_\_\_\_ (your research topic)?

YOU NEED TO COME UP WITH 6 GOOD QUESTIONS.

Write 200-300 word report on the main findings of your conversation with the interviewee. OR write a transcript of the questions and answers. Establish who your person is and why s/he is a credible source of information. Consider if the genre of the interview is an effective way to get information. Explain why or why not the interview form works for this situation? Most of all, have a good conversation and learn from your interviewer.

After completing all four (4) of your Source Entries -- RAB Source Entry #1, #2, and #3 and interview source -- each of your 4 source entries is 200-200 words -- you will write a conclusion for the entire RAB document.

**Conclusion (approx. 300 words):**

* Summarize what you found in your research.
* Tell readers what surprised you, or how your understanding of your question deepened or changed.
* Explain why what you learned is important.
* Explain who you think needs to know about your research and why– be specific! (The answer cannot be “everyone needs to know.” That is too big of an audience.) Narrow it down to who needs to hear about it first or the most!

Here’s another way to think about the Conclusion:

What did you learn about your topic? What surprised you? How did your thinking change or how did you knowledge deepen? Why is the research you found important? Who or what group would be the ideal audience for your research? Why would this audience benefit from your research? What genre will you choose to present your research?

(at least 250 words)