

UNIT 3

“The heart and soul of good writing is research;
you should write not what you know
but what you can find out about.” –Robert J. Sawyer

Greetings, Students. Please read the following description of **UNIT 3** (which I have copied, almost verbatim, from your Syllabus). Then read the worksheets I have created to guide you through this assignment:

Unit 3: Inquiry Based Argumentative Project

*This assignment asks students to continue looking outside their school lives and tackle an urgent current problem — something that is particularly important to them. [For Prof. Schmerler’s 1121 Course,] **students must choose the same topic that they engaged with in Unit 2 (Genre)**. The goal is to create an argumentative project that 1) begins with at least one focused research question about a specific problem or issue surrounding this topic, 2) asks students to conduct primary and secondary research to identify stakeholders and analyze different perspectives on this problem, 3) incorporates brainstorming about possible solutions or the repercussions of inaction, and 4) ends with a draft of a position paper for future research. This can be either an individual or collaborative assignment, and might be brought forward into UNIT 4 where it will be translated into different media targeting a specific audience affected by the problem.*

I proposed to the students in all of my 1121 sections that they come up with their own, desired research format. To date, no one person has suggested a format. Hence, I have devised the following 2 worksheets to aid in your timely completion of this project.

**Worksheet 1 is due in draft form the day we come back from Spring Break (Apr 29/30).
(You have already begun this work in class!)**

Worksheet 2 is due one week later (May 6/7).

The Final Version of your Inquiry Project is due May 15.

The onus is on you, students, to consult me, an experienced researcher (a Librarian, perhaps?!), or others in your class if you need guidance.

“You have to do the research.
If you don’t know about something,
then you ask the right people who do.”
–Spike Lee