FORMAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 2 - RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

DUE DATES:
1. Work on rough draft in class – Mar. 5 and 7, 2014
2. First Rough Draft due:  Mar. 17, 2014; the rough draft will be peer reviewed in class on this date; once this peer review is completed, revise it for your Second Rough Draft;
3. Final Formal Essay due:  Mar. 26, 2014; this essay must be turned in along with peer-reviewed rough draft #’s 1 and 2, as well as the 5 workshops that pertain to your research, and copies of all of your Written research sources.

REMEMBER:  When you turn in your final essay, it needs to be in your Research folder along with all peer-reviewed rough drafts (2). Also, your folder must contain printed copies of all the sources that you used.

If you choose not to use the full printed essay (say it contains 100 pages), then copy:
   1. the first page of the essay
   2. any pages that you use in your essay
   3. and the last page or pages where documentation information is contained; sometimes that is the last page, and sometimes, it is a page or two before the last page.

If you choose to use a hard copy of a book or magazine or newspaper, then copy:
   1. the cover page
   2. the page where copyright or other information is given
   3. an the pages that you are using in your essay.

Ask me if you have questions.

Additionally, make sure that any printouts that you use contain the date that you accessed the information. This is printed at the bottom of the page in the right-hand corner.
Remember: If you email a copy of a source to yourself, then the copy that you get in your email will not contain the date that you accessed the information; however, the date that you emailed the article to yourself should be the date that you accessed the article.

ASSIGNMENT

Step # 1 -
Choose a social issue that you would like to investigate. For instance, you might choose to research issues such as homelessness, poverty, capital punishment, birth control, disease, war, drugs, crime, gambling, adoption, marriage, children, and many others. If you have already made up your mind about an issue, then do not research it because you are not searching for truth; instead, you will just be trying to find sources that will agree with you. Therefore, choose a topic about which you have not made up your mind, but you would like to know what the experts have to say about it in the process of taking a position on the thesis question that you posed about this social issue.

Step # 2 –
Do some reading about your topic.

Step # 3 –
State, in the form of a question, what you would like to find out. The purpose of this question is to guide you in your research. Your question needs to be stated so that it requires a personal response/position from you. For example, you might pose the following question: What is my position on capital punishment?

Step # 4 –
Get your thesis question approved by your instructor. Do this before you start gathering a lot of information.

Step # 5 –
Conduct library research to learn more about your topic and to find some possible answers/sources to your question. Interviews must be completed by Oct. 25, 2013; this requires the completion of Workshop # 5.

Step # 6 –
Use at least two images in your essay that will enhance your readers’ understanding of your position on the social issue that you have chosen. This image might be a graph that you or someone else created; it might be a photograph that you or someone else took; or it might be some other kind of image that you or someone else created. If someone else created the image, then you must give that person or persons credit for his or her
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or their work. This documentation is typed directly beneath the image. Number your images as Figure 1, Figure 2, etc. Only 2 images are required, but you may use more if you think that more will help your readers to better understanding what you are saying about your topic.

Step # 7
During our time in class and outside class, complete Workshop #’s 1-5 that I will give you to guide you in obtaining sources for your research essay. You will need 4 written sources and one personal interview to complete this essay. At least 3 of your written sources must be from the databases on the computers in the JSRCC library; you may choose a different written source for the fourth one; however, 4 of your sources may come from the databases, and the fifth source will come from a personal interview that you will conduct. Remember that your minimum number of sources is 5; however, you may use more than 5 sources.

Format for Your Essay
The rough drafts and the final report must be typed (one side of the sheet of paper only), double-spaced, and at least 5 pages in length. The final report must be in MLA format. Use font size 12 font, Times New Roman. Make sure that the print on the final typewritten report is sufficiently dark enough to be read easily.

Notes for You to Consider
- Gather information that will help you to answer the question that you have posed.

- Analyze the information that you collect and determine how it answers your question.

- What you find out may contradict your beliefs; however, you need to grapple with it and be truthful about what you find as you analyze your information. Your research is concerned with finding the truth about your subject. Therefore, you must be accurate and complete in reporting what you find.

- All references to other people’s ideas or words (paraphrasing, summarizing, or quoting) must be attributed to the source and documented with parenthetical notation. Furthermore, all sources must appear in a list of Works Cited at the end of the report.

What Your Report Should Contain
1. **Cover page** with your name, section number, and the thesis question that you have posed.

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2. The second page should begin in the standard MLA format, meaning the identifying information in the upper right-hand corner of the sheet, followed by your title, the body of your essay, and a works cited list. The cover page is not counted as one of the pages of your essay and neither is the works cited page. The cover page is not numbered. However, the works cited page is numbered.

3. You will need a **title** for your report. Formal Writing # 2 is not a title. Make your title say something about your research.

4. The first paragraph (maybe even the first sentence) of your report should answer the question that you wrote on the cover page. This is called the **thesis statement**.

5. **Draw a circle** around your thesis statement.

6. The rest of your report must in some way support your answer/thesis statement.

7. The report will be followed by a **list of Works Cited**. This is typed separately from the report itself. This page does not count as part of your page requirement for this report. However, you must have a Works Cited list at the end of your report.

**GRADING**
Grading for this essay will be based on the Standards set forth in your Syllabus. Also, I will take into consideration how well you have handled the MLA format, rules against plagiarism, and presentation, as well as defense, of your thesis.

**OUTCOMES MET BY THIS ESSAY**
1. Rhetorical Knowledge
2. Critical Thinking, Reading, and Writing
3. Process
4. Oral Communications Skills
5. Digital Technologies