ASSIGNMENT 4: RESEARCH PROJECT

Purpose: This assignment calls for an assimilation of all the lessons that the course helped you learn: your ability to reflect on your personal experience, analyze, conduct research from secondary resources and put them all together to form a research-based paper. You will be encouraged to be critical thinkers in the field that you are interested in pursuing (it can be the major that you are working on currently).

Deliverables: 6-8 page paper, 2-3 page annotated bibliography.

Description: In this 6-8 page paper, you will choose ONE topic which lets you explore your field of academic interest related to the overall course theme, Technology, Cultures and Society. Conduct a thorough rhetorical analysis of it. Your research report should provide the historical, social, and political context in which to situate your chosen topic. Also, remember that your audiences are not members of the discipline where the research is situated. Provide definitions and explanations wherever necessary.

Questions to think about as you get started:

- What is the social, historical and/or cultural context of the problem?
- What is its role within your field? How did you come in contact with it?
- How did the problem evolve?
- Are there any controversies (past or present) surrounding it? What and why?

Annotated bibliography
For this 2-3 page paper, you will gather at least five sources you can use while writing this paper. This should include both online and off-line resources. Then you will briefly summarize each source and address how the source will fit in with, be integrated into, or be generally helpful for your paper. The purpose of the annotated bibliography is to gather material and information you can use in paper 4 and to practice the summarization skills necessary for appropriately summarizing and quoting sources in your papers.

Your annotated bibliography should:

- Include full MLA citations for each source
- Annotate at least 5 sources; each annotation should be at least 100 words.
- Evaluate the sources for authority and importance.
- Your sources should be a mix of sources: some can be secondary, some primary.
- You should avoid tertiary sources (like dictionaries or encyclopedias)
- Be written in appropriate academic language, with accurate spelling and attention to punctuation.

We will discuss annotated bibs more in class. Please refer to the reference handout for annotated bibliography.

Presentation
Your preparation should include about fifteen to twenty slide presentation in PowerPoint or Prezi. Be sure to include the voiceover or video functions. You can supplement the PowerPoint with a youtube video as well. Your slides should explain your topic in as much detail as you deem necessary. Through your discussion prompt, you are enhancing and deepening the message of your slide presentation. You will find additional resources on Presentation techniques and best practices in ANGEL.
Grading Criterion:
Your paper will be considered Grade A if:
- Your sources are interesting and they are all clearly related to your topic.
- You select a variety of research sources and they are all written at the appropriate level for this project’s purpose.
- You can identify the author(s) of your sources and their credentials are relevant.
- You clearly summarize the main idea of each of your sources and can make an explicit connection to your argument.
- You correctly cite at least ten sources using a citation style described in class.

Final Project Research Proposal

You will write a 1-2 page research proposal addressing the following aspects:

Topic
- Summarize the topic of your research paper.
- Choice of media and justification of choice.

Research Question -
- What is the issue that will guide your research paper?

Background Information
- Are you familiar with this issue? Do have any connections to this issue?
- What are the arguments that surround this issue that your project aims to deal with? (Be as brief as possible. A sentence of two at the most)
- Why is your issue or question important? Who is it important to?

Research Plan
- Describe the various stages of your project: information collection, preparation, invention, gathering evidence, arrangement, reviewing the project, revising etc.