

Professional Research Paper (Total Assignment, approximately 15% of semester grade) 220 points total

Dr. Gingrich, AP Lang, Spring 2013

The topic of this paper is for you to research an issue/problem/question related to your career, intended college major, or a personal passion/hobby that you will be interested in pursuing. In researching the information on your career/profession or hobby, you should find 5-7 sources on your major/profession. You should have source citations in your paper for all five sources. There should be a minimum of 5 total citations. You should include your original investigation of the problem/question as well. The paper will be due the last week before finals—you will not have an opportunity to revise it after this so the grade will be your final grade for the product.

Written Product (150 points) : Due Friday, May 17th

You will write an essay of between 7 and 12 pages (2000-3500 words) on your professional choice. The paper should focus on an analysis of a particular issue/research question related to your field: i.e. what is a major question, an issue of concern that your field seems to be focusing on now? How would you hope to contribute to that field in the future? What do your initial investigations produce? Writers/researchers should conduct research of academic journals and books related to this field. **Writers/researchers should find 5-7 sources on their major/profession. The paper should have source citations for all five sources. There should be a minimum of 5 total citations.**

These are parts of your essay. They do not necessarily have to go in an order, but your essay should reflect a consideration of these areas. In general academic essays/journal articles traditionally follow this order. Each of these may be one to several pages.

- I. Explanation/description of the topic, question, general background. Why is it important to the field or to you personally? (Introduction)
- II. Review of the literature. These topics are not necessarily in the order you would write them. At least two of your sources should be on the question. Others might have to do with your field generally
 - A. What other people have found about your specific question?
 - B. General background-history of the topic.
 - C. What is missing from the research?
 - D. What you hope to include/contribute?
- III. Data Collection/Research Methodology (this could be written to a certain extent in future tense, as a plan):
 - A. What you could do now given your current resources. How you went about conducting some research.
 - B. What you could do in the future with unlimited resources. What resources you would need.

Types of data collection. These depend on the types of research/area that you are working on.

Experiments
Observations
Interviews
Document Analysis
Surveys
Case Studies

Experiments should not be conducted on animals/small children. Have parental/guardian permission involving any experiments with siblings.

IV. Findings-

- Describe what you found out/what you discovered. Explain the data information that you acquired.

V. Analysis

- What do your findings mean? What do they contribute to the sciences/arts?

VI. Conclusion

- How is this significant?
- Where would you go from here with your research?

In your final papers include the findings from your research.

Oral Presentation (50 points):

Based on your finding you are to deliver a 7-10 minute presentation to the class on your profession, the question, the findings, and why this question or issue is important to your study. You should dress professionally for this presentation and include at least one visual image. Students often include several visuals, props, handouts, slides, music, videos, etc. as part of the presentation.

*Your findings may be in preliminary stages at the time of your presentation. The project does not have to have been completed by the time of the presentation. This could be a discussion of a work in progress.

Point Value and Due Dates:

There will not be third revision of this essay. The draft you turn in on May 17th will be your final draft of this paper.

Annotated Bibliography will be due on Thursday, May 8th 20 points

Paper due Friday, May 17th

Presentations will be from Monday, May 13th to Monday, May 20th

Annotated Bibliography (20 points)

Due beginning of the period, Thursday, May 9th

Write a bibliography with a brief summary (100 words or so per source) of each of your sources. 5 sources total. The annotation should give a summary of the article, an explanation of the research, and a discussion of the methods used to conduct the research as well as the style of prose (syntax and diction).

Oral Presentation of Professional Research Project

1. Present the information from your work to the class in an oral presentation of approximately 7-10 minutes. No more than 10 minutes. This is worth 30 points for the overall assignment grade.
2. Include at least one visual or prop in your presentation. You may include music, videos, news clips, etc.
3. The presentations will be Friday, May 1th to , May 22nd see schedule on the back.
4. This is an informative speech; it is not necessary to persuade audience of anything, but
 - to explain issue—problem-question
 - why it is significant to your field—how it affects research in your field
 - why you are interested in the topic—what you have learned about the topic at this point and what further questions you have
 - include at least one visual/handout/prop (some students use power points or web pages)
 - what you have accomplished/hope to accomplish

You will be graded on the following criteria:

- Use of research/information
- Organization/preparation
- Style and delivery

Rubric for Professional Research Paper

Writer's Name:

Topic:

Grade:

Category	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Effective	Superior
Content	May describe profession or discipline but lacks in explanation of connection to question _____	Limited explanation and connection to question _____	Effective explanation of key concepts, connects questions to general ideas _____	Very thoughtful explanation of key ideas, question and relevance to writer's interest _____
Development	Uneven development; sources may be largely under utilized or unapparent; ideas seem sketchy and unclear explained _____	Limited development; some documentation but sources could be utilized more thoroughly _____	Complete development; including frequent use of documentation and sources _____	Thorough, insightful essay including documented uses of sources _____
Organization	Scattered;	Uneven flow;	Clear and	Sophisticated

	disorganized explanation leaving reader puzzled at times _____	though generally coherent _____	apparent organization of ideas _____	flow from topic to topic _____
Style	Some sentence structure errors which impede comprehension may occur _____	Generally clear and correct sentence structure _____	Strong voice; Clear sentence structure with few errors _____	Powerful voice with sophisticated style and imagery _____

Professional Research Oral Presentation

Speaker Name:

Topic:

Student Average

Grade

Informational Development 1 2 3 4

Interest Level 1 2 3 4

Organization 1 2 3 4

Audience Awareness and Style 1 2 3 4

Use of Research 1 2 3 4

Total Score =

Planning Sheet for Research Project Proposal
Dr. Gingrich
AP Language and Composition

1. Your topic

2. The type of research you will do individually

3. Why does this method fit with your project

4. The steps you will go about in conducting this research/setting up appointments, gathering materials, designing the experiment, etc.

The dates by which you will complete the steps.