

Individual Research Paper (20% of final grade)

Task: Choose an issue that affects a specific group of people (i.e. children, teenagers, women, etc.) in your local community, state, country, or region. Then choose an organization or a policy maker that has addressed or tried to solve that problem in the past.

The final product will be a problem-solution paper that critiques 3 current solutions and recommends how to improve them those existing solutions.

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is to develop research skills (choosing a focused topic, developing a research question, using library materials for support), source-based writing skills (evaluating, synthesizing, and documenting sources), and critical thinking skills. These can all be applied toward other source-based writing assignments that you will be writing in your own field of study. You will learn how to incorporate more than one source into every body paragraph and back up your ideas with evidence from sources. When possible, the instructor will provide feedback at each step-- topic selection, source selection, outlining, source synthesis, etc. However, you should be able to complete all of these steps on your own in order to pass the class.

Outline: All final papers should follow the outline below. ***Please note that each paragraph must incorporate a *minimum* of one properly cited source. High quality essays will exhibit the principles of source synthesis and include multiple sources within each paragraph.**

I. Introduce the problem & organization

II. Solution #1

a. Description

b. Critique

c. Improvement

III. Solution #2

a. Description

b. Critique

c. Improvement

IV. Solution #3

a. Description

b. Critique

c. Improvement

V. Conclusion

Formatting: APA Research Paper formatting should be used, including a title page, headers, headings, and the reference page. **Final papers should be 5-7 pages, Times New Roman, Size 12, Double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides.** (Paper size: 8 1/2 x 11-inches)
Note: *The References page should not include the annotations from the annotated bibliography.*

Sources: A minimum of five academic sources should be used in this paper. The reliability of sources should be emphasized for this assignment. The annotated bibliography may help your with this selection and provide the instructors an opportunity to reject any unacademic sources before you begin formally writing.

Plagiarism: Both intentional and unintentional plagiarism should be dealt with harshly at this point of the semester. Consequences vary from instructor to instructor, however, ALL A-level final drafts must be completely free from plagiarism. Passing/failing a student should be seriously considered if they are not understanding the seriousness of plagiarism and/or how to avoid it.

Deadlines: There will be four deadlines for this assignment. They are noted below:

| Date | Description of What is Due |
|--|--|
| Deadline #1: 11/22 (11:55pm) | A first draft of the three paragraphs for solution #1 (description, critique, improvement). I will provide comments on this. |
| Deadline #2: 12/3 (5:00 pm) | A first draft of the three paragraphs for solution #2 (description, critique, improvement). This will be for in-class peer-review. |
| Deadline #3: 12/9 (before your conference time) | A first draft of the essay (+specific questions) for our individual conferences |
| Deadline #4: 12/13 (11:55pm) | Final Draft due |

An Example IRP essay can be found [here](#).