**Campus Research Report**

Comp II: Natural Sciences and Health Professions

Issues such as student stress, health, nutrition, sleep, major choice, and career concerns are important not only to students themselves but to researchers in many different disciplines, as well as to university and government officials and a variety of other stakeholders who read the journals that disseminate research on these subjects. For our capstone project, you’ll conduct research into some issue related to campus life that is a subject of concern to scholars and scientists as well as to you and other students who deal with it directly. You’ll see what findings and trends related this issue have emerged from previous research, and look for questions about the issue that interest researchers—or questions no one has asked yet but should. Your work will lead to a formal research report such as you’re reviewed and summarized in earlier project, written for the readership of a specific peer reviewed academic journal. This project may be completed either individually or in groups of **no more than three** students.

**Format**

The report must be written in APA format, including a title page and abstract and an appropriate references list. It must be comprised the standard sections of a research report (Introduction, Methods, Findings, Discussion), labeled as such. The body of the paper—the standard four sections, should be 8-10pp. double spaced.

The report must include at least two visuals produced by the writer/s. Visuals may not count toward the 8-10pp. required for the body.

**Research Context/Question**

You will begin your project by investigating research in peer-reviewed scholarly journals a subject of your choice related to college life (we’ll discuss some possibilities in class) and noting what kinds of questions professional researchers are asking and what they are learning about it. As you read, look for opportunities to follow up on some question studied by others (replicating research is an important part of academic life) or for unanswered questions either raised by researchers or that occur to you as you read the study and think of your own experiences with the issue. A good way to begin your project might be to reflect on student life issues of concern to you and see what questions come to mind that you think you could investigate to better understand the issue, then do some searching in library databases for research into related concerns. This initial research will provide the background for your study that you will describe in the introduction section (via a brief literature review). The introductory section will connect your research subject and question with previous research and with real-world concerns that give them relevance.

**Methods/Sources**

You will employ a variety of secondary and primary research methods. Use peer reviewed journals, books, web sites of credible sources such as government, universities, hospitals to locate research and relevant background information. Popular publications such as (but not limited to) magazines and newspapers may also be used for background. You may not use general reference websites such as Wikipedia, webmd, about.com, howstuffworks, buzzle.com, procon.org, infoplease.com, naturalnews.com eHow.com, etc.

Conduct your primary research by gathering data through interviews, surveys, observations, journals, etc.—in short, methods that will allow you to study the issue as it directly affects peers at this campus. You may also wish to interview university officials, professors, other professionals for background on the issue or insight on your findings.

**Completion Sequence**

We will complete this project in the following stages:

1. By Tues., 4/2, have a tentative topic/research question in mind and be prepared to discuss it in class. If you wish to work in a group, form your group by this time.

2. By class time on Thur., 4/4, upload a research proposal to the appropriate drop box on our blackboard site. The proposal will consist of:

a) A brief description of your topic, the research question you are asking about it and a statement of why it is sigifnificant—why it is valuable and necessary to investigate this question? What can be gained from it, and by who? Identify a particular peer reviewed journal where you envision your research being published and briefly describe why you believe your study is suitable for this journal and its readers. This should take roughly 1 p.

b) A literature review of 1.5-2 pp. in which you describe previous research related to the subject. It should be clear from reading your review how your research question arises from and seeks to build on previous findings.

c) A ½-1 p. description of the methods you are using to complete the study. Discuss the secondary sources you will use and the purpose for which you use them and the primary research methods by which you will gather data.

*If you work in a team—your methods section must also include a description of exactly which tasks each team member is responsible for.*

d) A timetable for when you will complete your primary research tasks.

I will respond to proposals by the end of Fri., 4/5. Check your drop box that day for feedback from me. If you are working in a group, EACH group member must submit a file of the proposal.

The proposal counts for 10% of your research project grade.

3. Between Thur., 4/11 and Wed., 4/17 I will conduct conferences with each writer or group in my office. Class will not meet on the 11th or 16th to accommodate conferences. You conference will count for 5% of your research project grade; to earn full credit, you must bring to your conference a draft in progress consisting of *at least:*

a) The introduction section (two pages will probably suffice)

b) At least two pages of your findings section plus a tentative outline of the rest. Your research may still be in progress at this point, but I should be able to get a sense of what you’re finding and see a purposeful attempt to communicate it.

The more you have complete by conference time, the better!

4. On Thur., 4/18 and Tue., 4/23, each writer/group will present their research orally to the class. Separate guidelines for the presentation will be distributed. The presentation counts for 10% of the research project grade.

5. At our last class meeting on 4/25, we will conduct a peer review of each writer’s/group’s research project. You must have a complete draft ready. Specific directions for the form/number of copies to bring will be issued through our site by the 23rd. Watch for an announcement. The review counts for 5% of your research project grade.

6. Upload your revised draft of the research report to the appropriate drop box by 11:59 PM on Monday, 4/29. Turn in your peer reviewed hard copy draft in my mailbox (1440 FH) by that time as well (though bear in mind the mail room closes at 5 PM…).