G.7: Critical Thinking Assignment Sample 2

Midterm Research Projects — Expository Research Paper & Poster

EVERYONE’S written report due on Monday, February 25th. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE
ACCEPTED, AND YOU MUST SUBMIT A PAPER TO PASS THE CLASS, AS PER THE SYLLABUS.

In addition, 1/2 of the class will present their accompanying research posters on Monday,
February 25th. The other 1/2 will present their accompanying research posters on Wednesday, February
27th. First come, first served in terms of signing up to do your poster one of those two classes.
You can notify me of your preferences by e-mail.

Attendance/participation points worth a test grade on both of these days. (On Friday, March
1st, we will not meet as a class; you will have an independent assignment to complete
elsewhere on your own instead.)

1st person – NO!* (I, me, my, we, us, our, ours, etc.)
2nd person – NO!* (you, your, yours, etc.)
3rd person – YES! (he, she, it, his, her, hers, its, they, them, theirs, etc.)
*unless used in a quotation

APA format (6th ed.) required
APA cover page required
APA references page required
5 page minimum (not including cover page and references page)
10 page maximum (not including cover page and references page)

Primary research – bonus points
Secondary research – mandatory**
Tertiary research – not allowed unless I specifically agree to a source
**Minimum of five scholarly sources; at least one must be a traditional print source (no
ebooks, electronic databases, etc. for that one)

RESEARCH PROSPECTUS INSTRUCTIONS

You are welcome to change this prospectus as necessary during the research project, but please
note that you MUST submit a new draft detailing those changes to me each time if you do. Part
of your grade will be based on my comparing the final research paper to the research
prospectus, so it is to your advantage to redo your prospectus and resubmit it if you make
changes. Please feel free to visit me during my office hours if you are having trouble at any
stage.
General Education Assessment Plan

Save this document as a file, and type your information into it. Do NOT remove the original questions/text from it. Save in www.dropbox.com and print a copy to submit to me. I will keep a copy of these on file.

1. Working title for your research paper:
2. Research topic focus (may not be clear from working title):
3. Guiding question for research topic focus:
4. Why/how did you choose your overall topic?
5. Why, in your opinion, is it worth researching?
6. In addition to the introduction and the conclusion, what sections do you anticipate your paper having? Please be as specific as you can regarding number and subtopics of these sections.
7. Would scholarly sources be available on this topic? (If not, get a new one!!!) List possible academic disciplines/professional fields that would be concerned with this topic.
8. Please detail the sources of the preliminary research you have already done on this topic.
9. Do you anticipate any problem areas or difficulties with this research? If so, be specific about what they are and how you plan to address them.
10. Working backwards from the due date, plan a schedule of tasks you need to complete between now and then to get this research project done. Consider primary research, secondary research, drafting, revising, incorporating citations, editing & proofreading, and creating the accompanying presentation product. Specify time you anticipate spending on each task.

Thanks to Lynnette Brash for allowing use of this sample.