ENG210–7

3/9/21

**Research proposal and initial bibliography assignment**

**Part 1**: Research topic, proposal, questions:

In this assignment, I want you to write more expansively than you did for your initial topic assignment, to produce a mini-essay, again *in the third person*. It will probably be a page or so. Include a title at the start.

*Overview of the topic*. This is the more purely informative part of the essay. Provide any background information that is necessary for me to know in order to understand your topic. You might include some or all of the following: a rough history of the topic, definitions of important terms, and major facts and figures. Try to include the information that is most interesting and the most relevant to your particular interests in this topic. This section will provide important context for the next section.

*Important questions*. In this section, discuss **three** well-focused questions that might generate further research. When discussing each question, mention any information that is relevant to the question. And if anyone has suggested answers to these questions, discuss that also.

*Conclusion*. In your conclusion, describe the **main** question that you want to answer, and discuss the reasons you think this is an important question. Remember as always that it should be about a point of stasis, a *debate with a non-trivial answer to a “Yes/No” question* (e.g. “Does television violence harm children?”).

**Part 2**: Initial annotated bibliography:

Do research to find **six** sources for your research project. You can include your two Group Source ones if they fit your topic. See Chapter 6 in *Who Says?* for advice on finding various kinds of sources. Keep in mind that, once you find a few good articles or books, they will often lead you to others (by including other promising sources in their works cited list or by leading you to other sources in the library or the databases).

I also recommend “electronic browsing”—find one journal that has a promising article, then look that journal up online and click through the Table of Contents for the past several years. This often doesn’t take that long, and you’ll find articles Summon, FirstSearch or Academic Search Ultimate never would have. A good place to go for that is the [E-Journal](http://fh6gr8dl7j.search.serialssolutions.com/) portal on our library website (Home Page -> E-Journal Portal).

Find at least

* two articles from recent periodicals or trustworthy websites, which can include commentary magazines that cover some current aspect of your topic; a commentary magazine is one like *The Economist*, or *The Atlantic*, but also *Mashable* or *Slate* for Web topics
* two books (these can be eBooks from eBook Central or the eBook Collection, and don’t forget [Google Books](http://books.google.com/books?hl=en), not their bookstore) that might provide some basic theoretical or historical perspective as in the group source assignment
* two articles from peer-reviewed, that is, scholarly journals (see the LibGuide page on [College Writing](http://library.lasalle.edu/c.php?g=130997), then What is a Scholarly Journal? tab)

If you have others, (e.g. a website that gives good historical background) keep track of them, ideally with some or all of an article or book printed or copied, with proper citation, and any useful quotes copied in full (see pages 94–98). You’ll need more eventually, and your topic may shift somewhat. As you find your six *best* sources (that is, you should find a large number of sources and select from them the six most promising ones), do the following for each:

1. Write a full bibliographic citation for the sources on a Works Cited page in [APA](https://liu.cwp.libguides.com/APAstyle/home) format. Recall that that means to list them alphabetically by author’s last name or by title or “corporate author” if there is no author (often true of websites), with hanging indents. Here is the [sample APA paper](http://www.lasalle.edu/~beatty/210/apa_sample_owl.pdf) downloaded from Purdue’s OWL. Note also that scholarly journals and e-books should have a DOI (digital object identifier) number instead of a URL (web address). See the DOI tab on the [College Writing](http://library.lasalle.edu/c.php?g=130997) guide.

2. Follow that list with two or three sentences evaluating each source’s relevance (**what** is in it and **how** you will use ii) and reliability (ethos or credibility—what is it about the author (**who**) or the source that makes this a good source). See the guidelines for evaluating sources on pages 76–79, and remember the CARDS process for websites. If necessary, do some Internet research to find out about the author and publisher of each source. In your two to three sentences, then, write your thoughts (don’t copy the abstract) about how relevant and reliable this source will be, as you did for the group source assignment (example reprinted below).

Submit on Canvas, with double-spaced annotations and single-spaced references in12-point serif type (e.g. Times New Roman), written in the third person; due **Thursday, March 25.**

Sample Source:

Downing, J. (2001). *Rebellious Communication and Social Movements*. [eBook Collection EBSCOhost]. Retrieved from http://web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer.

This extensive academic work includes chapters on all forms of media from more than 50 countries. Its strengths include attention to the personal stories of those who help set up alternative media, stories told through in-depth ethnographic research and case studies. It could help make the claim that group formation through the Internet was not the first time grass-roots activists discovered that anyone can make a difference. This, in turn supports the notion that the Internet, while a significant social force, extends incrementally, rather then re-invents wholly, our natural social processes.

John Downing holds a Ph. D. from the London School of Economics, and was most recently professor emeritus of international communication at Southern Illinois University where he founded the Global Media Research Center.