ENG 210-27

2/16/21

Topic ideas: Due: Tuesday, **February 23** (have ready for library session)

As rhetorician Wayne Booth famously wrote, a research paper needs to be more than just a fact-grubbing exercise to satisfy your professor.

So, for next Tuesday, ➊ come up with **two** topic areas that relate to the Internet (in any way), and that interest you enough to potentially do your term paper in those areas, thinking about what the current issue or debate is in each area. You can go back to our [topic ideas](http://www.lasalle.edu/~beatty/210/Topic%20ideas.docx) list for starters or get any of your own. Note the level of specificity—one thing to avoid is topics that are too broad (e.g. “Is the Internet good or bad?”).

Use the process in *Who Says?*, Chapter 4 to find identify and develop these or other issues—what is “out there”? What are hot, sustained topics that reflect points of stasis (debate) surrounding the Internet?

Then, at least for now, ➋ use the model below as a starting point for these proposed topics (note this produces one (long) sentence, and the suggested question in step 2. is “whether”):

1. I am considering studying (Topic)

2. because I want to find out what / why / how/*whether* (Question)

3. in order to help my reader understand (Significance).

For example: 1. I am considering studying the effects of television violence on children (Topic)

2. because I want to find out whether the effects are significant, wide-spread and long-lasting (Question)

3. in order to help my reader understand whether they should monitor, restrict or control their children’s use of TV (Significance).

Add a sentence or two to elaborate on what the debate/point of stasis is for each topic. Also add the potential practical significance to your problem, the “so what?” element, something that might change people’s behavior.

We may discuss these at our library session, so be ready to provide one of your considered topics to the librarian.

As always, this must be word-processed, double-spaced and submitted as a Word document via Canvas (e-mail is an option if there are last-minute problems).