**Assignment Sheet: Research Project**

**Prospectus Due: 11/5**

**Annotated Bibliography Due: 11/14**

**Peer Review / Presentations: 12/3**

**Final Draft Due, as a blog post in our class blog: 12/5, NOON**

**Purpose**: This research project is designed to give you the opportunity to practice and build skills in a number of different types of writing and communication: performing research in the library and online, writing from research, analysis, argument, synthesis, description, public speaking, digital literacy, and reflection. It assumes a basic proficiency with the research process and in basic library use.

**Thing you’ll create**: You will create profile of a scholar of higher ed, and it will be in the form of a blog post on our class blog (details below). This class blog will serve as a collaboratively generated source about thinkers in higher ed that we can share with others.

**Format:** This profile will be in the form of a blog post on our class blog. You will be shown how to create a blog post. You will be required to post a picture of the scholar, an overview of what they do and why we should listen, analysis of 1 work, selected bibliography of their important or recent work, and links to their social media profiles or websites. The word count and other expectations are as follows:

* Introduction/Overview: this will give us an overview of who this scholar is, what they work on, where their work fits in to a larger picture of higher ed scholarship, and so on. In this overview, you need to make an argument about their work. **50-100 words**.
* Discussion of their work focusing on a specific example that supports your argument about their work: you need to get familiar with the work of this scholar. Does it mean that you need to read everything they’ve written? No, but it does mean that you need to develop some expertise about them. You need to have a sense of what their scholarly interests are, how they pursue those interests, and who is reading their work. You need to discuss, at length, a substantial example of their scholarship. So a tweet thread isn’t going to work for this “featured work” section, but a book or chapter or scholarly article will. This and the previous part will be the most like a traditional paper in that you will use MLA citations, and use summary, paraphrases, and quotations to support your argument. **700-1000 words.**
* Links to their website, social media presence, places where they’ve been interviewed, and so on. A good number here would be in the range of 5-10.
* A picture, ethically sourced, of the scholar.

**How to get started**:

As you read the Cottom or the Delbanco books, hopefully you’ll come across another scholar’s work (that either of our authors cite or quote or paraphrase or mention) that strikes your interest somehow. Take some time looking into a few options, but by mid-July, you need to have chosen, and gotten to know the a little bit about the work of, one of these scholars. There will be plenty of opportunity to confer with me about who to profile, and I’m willing to consider choices of scholars who aren’t mentioned in the books but who work in a field mentioned by the book.

**Due on 11/5, your prospectus** will rank your top 3 choices of scholars to profile. For each scholar, you need to list a few things: A few sentences about why you want to research and profile that scholar, a list of their work that you might investigate, and if relevant, you should give a sense of their social media / popular media presence. I will tell you which one I think you should choose.

**Due on 11/14, your annotated bibliography** needs to list 4-6 sources (3 of which must be scholarly) that this scholar wrote or were written about this scholar. In order to make these choices, you need to skim and get a sense of the body of work by/about this scholar. These 4-6 choices should REPRESENT the larger body of work of the scholar; they shouldn’t be the only sources you’ve looked at.

**Your project will be graded** with our major project rubric. Your project will be evaluated with the following criteria:

* The project clearly states and substantially supports an argument about your scholar
* The blog post is organized well, including with an intro that serves as a “road map” to the project and gives a general picture of the scholar’s work
* The post uses well-chosen examples, evidence, quotations, or paraphrases to support the thesis
* Your supporting arguments for the thesis are well-developed and proportional
* Your post makes good use of sources, including the featured one
* Paragraphs are unified and coherent, with one primary idea evident in each one
* Each sentence is clear and concise with minimal grammatical errors
* All sources are cited accurately within the essay.
* The post is easily navigable, links work, the photo was sourced ethically, and the post link itself works.

**What a Research Project is and Why You Should Care**

A research project is a writing assignment designed to give you practical experience in using

the library, in gathering material, in taking systematic and helpful notes, and in efficiently

organizing your judgments or exploratory questions in the writing of a longer document.

As a class we will be going through the process of writing a research paper by talking about

sources, outlines, organizational strategies, and rough drafts. One can think of the

organization of a research paper in the following stages:

1. Understanding the assignment (see above)

2. Defining the topic you’d like to pursue (within the framework given by me)

3. Recognizing the questions implied by the topic (questions at issue)

4. Determining the kinds of materials needed to address those questions

5. Gathering materials

6. Abstracting from materials (notes, note cards, outlines, choosing examples and best

sources)

8. Writing the paper

7. Organizing notes into a meaningful pattern

6. Abstracting from materials (notes, note cards, outlines, choosing examples and best

sources)

8. Writing the paper

5. Gathering materials

6. Abstracting from materials (notes, note cards, outlines, choosing examples and best

sources)

8. Writing the paper

9. Revising the paper

7. Organizing notes into a meaningful pattern

6. Abstracting from materials (notes, note cards, outlines, choosing examples and best

sources)

8. Writing the paper

9. Revising the paper

7. Organizing notes into a meaningful pattern

8. Writing the paper

10. Revising the paper in dialogue with your peer reviewers

9. Revising the paper

11. Proofreading and checking the format of the total paper