

**Major Assignment #2: Discovery Presentation and Essay
(20% of course grade)**

*Process Work (5% of course grade) due throughout unit /
Presentation (7.5% of course grade) due 3/15-3/17, as scheduled / Essay (7.5% of course grade) due 3/17*

Your Discovery project has two parts: (I) a presentation and (II) an essay. The points of this assignment are to walk you through a research process and to prepare a mature set of research material for you to use in Unit 3 (the research essay). You are NOT taking a position in this assignment; you ARE investigating (and ultimately reporting on) a topic. To that end:

(I) You will use Google Slides or Microsoft PowerPoint to show the MLA citations and bulleted key points from your research sources:

*This assignment is graded almost wholly on completion—7/10 sources completed well receives an 70%, etc. Partial completion of any given item will result in reduced points for that item.

- a. You must include each of the following TEN sources (additional sources are acceptable, but you MUST include ALL of these)
 - 2 published books (there must be a print version available) from reputable publishers
 - 2 peer-reviewed articles from the library databases
 - 2 newspaper or magazine articles (both source types must be reputable)
 - 1 survey that you design and conduct through SurveyMonkey
 - 1 interview that you conduct with an individual relevant to your project
 - 1 empirical experiment you conducted yourself
 - 1 piece of personal archival material (acceptable items include material from personal/family archives or a public archives; meaningful physical evidence that came out of your empirical experiment; physical evidence that demonstrates your research claims in some meaningful way)

- b. You should include all of the following in your slide presentation:
 - Your starting research question
 - A linear representation of each of your 10 sources, *in the order you consulted them*, with the following bulleted notes:
 - the MLA citation for each source
 - Who is the author? (Name, yes, but also—where do they work? why are they writing this piece?—adapt these items as appropriate for non-published sources; for anonymous interview/survey subjects, you may include/exclude contextual details as appropriate)
 - What would the AUTHOR/SPEAKER say is the main point or takeaway of the source? (For primary evidence you've created yourself, YOU are the author/speaker.)
 - What are 2-4 important points that YOU took away?
 - What did this source help you understand about your research question?
 - Your refined research project thesis (i.e., After reading all this material together, what thesis are you proposing for your research paper in Unit 3?)

(II) In the essay portion of this assignment, you will narrate your research process for me. (If it helps you to have a label, this is a “research narrative” essay. It is NOT, in other words, an argument of any kind; you’re just telling me about your research process for now. The more familiar “research paper” takes shape in Unit 3.

*NOTE: This essay is graded primarily on “Did you meet the assignment?” and “Is your MLA correct?”

- a. Tell me: Where did you start? What did you do next? And then what? And then? Why did you make the choices you did at each point, and what did you learn along the way? (Think of *Born to Run* as an example of how to narrate a research process.)
- b. Word count is 1200-1500.
- c. Feel free to be casual in this essay—use I, be frank about what you enjoyed and hated—but **use MLA format**. You should, of course, cite ALL of your TEN+ sources (from your slides) in your essay.

*Process work includes your research question and strategies exercise(s), your own notes in your field notebooks, advance draft of slides, completion of peer review, and all support files for your research materials (marked up drafts of text sources, samples of empirical experiment, notes and/or recordings of interviews, full data report from survey).