Self-Check for ENC 1101 Research Paper Portfolio Project

___ Oral report and 1-page written proposal describing your research topic

___ Summarize a signed magazine or journal article found in a PSC Library Database and related to topic.

___ Identify and document electronic articles using MLA style (quiz)

___ Review avoidance of plagiarism—see text and class notes

___ Peer Review Research Paper rough drafts in class

___ Peer Review Works Cited rough drafts in class

___ Recommended: Visit the English tutor in TLCC. Have tutor read and comment on the Research Paper rough draft.

Research Paper Portfolio and all resource materials due ____________

Place these materials in standard file folder (no acetate covers)

✓ Research Paper final draft. No cover page; see Handbook for Writers and MLA online (OWL). Do not staple final draft.

✓ Works Cited page with minimum 6 required sources (see Guidelines)

✓ Indicate word count on the line after the date

✓ Copies of all signed magazine or journal articles cited in paper

✓ Photocopy of book pages cited in paper (with title page)

✓ Research Paper Guideline sheet—signed and dated

✓ Name and section number on index tab of folder
ENC 1101 Research Paper Portfolio:
Current Issues and/or Controversies

Professor John Baker

Final Paper Due (see syllabus) __________________________
Length 1,200 Words plus a Works Cited page

The Topic Choose a publicized current events topic that you are interested in and want to learn more about by doing library and Internet research. This informative paper should emphasize particular facets of the topic, such as social, cultural, ethical, legal, or psychological aspects. The assignment is to inform (not argue) and explain two or more sides of an issue. The paper should include a clear explanation of whatever is at issue or controversial. (Example: Although proponents maintain that...critics, on the other hand, have argued that...) The assignment is to explain rather than choose sides. Also, the author should present the topic in a fresh light, or synthesize, rather than simply summarize various sources. Ultimately, the paper should address why the topic has gotten noticeable attention in the public eye. No biographies or histories of famous individuals, please.

Getting Started Brainstorm possible angles and check on the availability of library and Internet sources first. Use the PSC Catalog for books and databases to locate magazine and journal articles classified by subject. Locate the Web site for this assignment under Class Guides (see link on Library home page). Check with me first for topic approval.

Format MLA style. Follow the sample student paper in Handbook for Writers. The text begins with the first page of the report (skip title page and outline).

Required Sources At least 6, to be included on Works Cited page

Required minimum Sources
✓ 1 book in print or e-book form (chapter, preface, introduction)
✓ 4 signed magazine or journal articles (full-text online version is OK)
✓ Ideally, sources should be published within the last 5 years

The other source(s) can include
✓ Signed magazine and/or journal articles
✓ Electronic: Web sites; online articles; CD-ROM
✓ 1 Personal interview

Rhetorical Strategy
You will include your own ideas in this paper, while using outside sources to support those ideas. A research paper should synthesize by offering a fresh approach and not simply summarizing. Clearly explain the controversy devoting equal space to two or more sides; when expressing an opinion, do so only after thoroughly explaining both sides. It is acceptable to express a thesis or opinion by simply stating that, because the topic is highly controversial, the problem or issue is not likely to be resolved anytime soon. Another way to express an opinion or thesis without choosing sides is to state that the stakeholders should become better informed before making any decisions of their own.

Audience American public (domestic matters)
A Few Possible Sub-Topics (and examples) to Consider

Modern-Day Piracy (the issues that are at stake)

Home Schooling (arguments for and against)

Mandatory Vaccinations (arguments for and against)

Immigration Issues (arguments regarding U.S. policies toward Mexico)

Presidential Elections (issues over funding and campaigning)

Funding for the Arts (controversies over public policies and practices)

Arguments overs Alternative Energy Sources (solar and nuclear, for example)

Species Extinction (what happened to the dinosaurs, for example)

Relationships (arguments for and against same-sex marriage, for example)

Anesthesia Awareness (causes PTSD, even suicide)

Controversies in Education (uniform standards and testing, for example)

Cyber-bullying (arguments over how to assign blame)

Texting (how to deal with the social problems and public safety issues)

Gender Equality (equal pay for women in the workplace, for example)

Body Art (arguments over personal expression in the workplace)

Point-of-View / Voice Use 3rd person formal. This paper should include little if any mention of personal experience. Primarily, you will cite outside sources: Articles from magazines and journals, and books. You may conduct a personal interview if it is relevant to the topic. For example, interview a health professional and document that interview in your paper. However, the paper is not about you or your personal experiences, but instead the ideas gained from the outside sources on the topic.

Approaches Off-limits Biographies and strictly historical accounts (such as copied from an encyclopedia) are off-limits, along with abortion/Planned Parenthood; steroids; gun control; capital punishment; the legalization of marijuana, and settled case law on issues including separation of church and state (e.g., Darwinism vs. Creationism and prayer in public schools). Choose a fresh topic and build this paper around a variety of sources. Papers that are based solely on one source or one kind of source are not acceptable.

Sample Papers Sample term papers for ENC1101 and ENC1102 are available. Ask at the TLCC test desk to check them out from my files (they have to remain in the LR building). Also see the Lib Guides link online via the PSC Library.
Research Strategies Narrow your topic before you start writing. For example, the subject of gender and the family is too broad in itself. However, the question of how to achieve better pay for single mothers is a topic worth investigating. To locate helpful books, do topic searches beginning with the LINCC computer database in the PCC library. Use databases such as Opposing Viewpoints and Issues and Controversies and CQ Researcher for topic ideas and ask the librarians for help.

Thesis rather than Fact Include a thesis statement (rather than a statement of fact) to explain your main point in the paper. All research papers (even informative papers) need a thesis, or main point, which is your opinion on the topic, and this should be expressed by the end of page 1 or beginning of page 2.

Fact: Families in America are increasingly turning to fast-food restaurants.

Thesis: As young families in America increasingly rely on fast-food restaurants, parents should be better informed and more involved regarding menu choices that contribute to obesity among school-age children.

Research Proposal You will write a 225-word paper proposing your topic. Points to address in your proposal: 1) Explanation of topic; 2) why you chose the topic; 3) availability of sources; 4) personal interest in and/or knowledge of the topic; 5) how you intend to develop the topic; and 6) the intended thrust of the paper. You may write the proposal in paragraph form or as an outline. A written proposal is required. Important: No research paper portfolios will be accepted from individuals who have not first submitted an approved written (topic) proposal in advance.

✓ Proposal Due _______________ (homework score)

Summary of an article from a PSC Database You will write a one-page summary of one by-lined magazine or journal article from a PSC Library Database used in the term paper. Staple a copy of the article to the summary. Guidelines for structure of the summary will be discussed during class. The print article should be at least 3 or more pages in print, because it will be condensed to a page.

✓ Summary Due _______________ (letter grade)

Working Drafts of Research Paper Before the research paper is due, we will review drafts of the paper in class (required homework). If a computer classroom is available, students may volunteer to bring a draft on floppy disc for critique on overhead.

✓ Rough Draft of Works Cited Page due _______________
✓ One-on-one Conferences with full working draft of Body of Paper and Works Cited page Due _______________

TLCC Tutor Visit Please visit a tutor in the TLCC at least once and have a tutor read and respond to a "clean" draft. The paper should already be typed and double-spaced, and free of editing marks. Ask the tutor to sign (not initial) and date the draft. Place the signed rough draft in your folder. You may visit the tutor before or after we review drafts in class; however, if you visit the tutor after peer review in class, take a clean draft for the tutoring session. If you procrastinate, you may not be able to get an appointment with the tutor. The purpose of reading drafts in class is to ask questions and put the finishing touches on your work.

The letter-quality final draft should include any necessary changes. Do not staple the final draft - leave the pages loose (but numbered and identified with your last name).
Search Engines Use PSC Library databases for locating most bylined magazine and journal articles. Avoid dot-com search engines; documentation is hard to compile.

Save research materials The research paper and research materials will be submitted together in a folder. Place photocopies of all articles and other materials in the folder. For a research paper to earn a score, the sources must be included in the portfolio.

Research Steps For a portfolio to earn a score, a student must have at least made an attempt at the research steps and assignments leading up to the final draft, including a written proposal.

Plagiarism Papers that plagiarize will earn a failing grade. The tutor will not check papers for plagiarism--that is your responsibility. To help avoid plagiarism, note the following. Plagiarism includes:

✓ Using direct speech without quotes, even if source / pg # is cited
✓ Using direct speech with quotes but not citing source / pg #
✓ Paraphrasing sentences or paragraphs without citing source / pg #

Minimum Requirements To earn at least a "C" or higher, the paper must meet minimum requirements such as word length, number, and types of sources. This also means sticking to the assignment to write an informative paper (in 3rd person) rather than an argument. Students who skip the steps and assignments leading up to the final draft will earn a zero on the final draft.

Documentation To earn at least a "C" or higher, the paper must demonstrate correct use of MLA documentation. For example, the parenthetical references in the body of the paper must correspond with entries on the Works Cited page, and vice versa.

Use of quotations Quote sparingly. To earn at least a "C" or higher, the paper may include no more than 25% of quoted material. Paraphrase the rest.

Sign and date form and place in folder Sign and date this form (below) certifying that you have read and understand these guidelines, then place this document in your folder along with the research paper and other materials. For a paper to earn a score, this signed document must be included in the folder.

________________________________________  ________________
Signature                                                 Date

Name ___________________________ Topic* ________________________________

Date _____________________________

Does the speaker:

_____ Devote at least 3 minutes to the topic?

_____ Clearly announce topic?

_____ Explain background?

_____ Explain his or her interest in topic?

_____ State a research question?

_____ Explain the controversy? (what two or more sides disagree on)

_____ Include a statistic?

_____ Mention the title of a book or article?

Is the speaker's topic:

_____ Broad or narrow enough for a 1,200-word paper?

_____ Relevant to contemporary culture?

_____ Within the guidelines of assignment? See topics off-limits in PAL

Do listeners understand (if applicable):

_____ Any limitations of the study?

_____ The population (group of people) to focus on?

Is the paper intended to be:

_____ Informative

Time Speaking: 1 min. / 50% ___ 2 min. / 66% ___ 3 + min. / 100% ___

Name __________________________ Topic* __________________________

Date _________________

Does the speaker:

____ Devote at least 3 minutes to topic?
____ Clearly announce topic?
____ Explain background of topic?
____ Explain the controversy? (What two or more sides disagree on)
____ Offer an opinion on his or her topic?
____ Answer the original research question?
____ Offer a possible thesis statement?
____ Mention the title of a book or article cited in the paper?

In Addition, does the speaker explain:

____ Something he or she learned as a result of doing this research paper?
____ What, if anything, he or she would do differently next time?
____ Why?
____ Answer any questions that the listeners asked? (not included in total time)

Time Speaking: 1 min. / 50% ____ 2 min. / 66%__ 3 + min. / 100%____
Guidelines for Oral Report of Article from Database: ENC1101

Name ______________________  Topic* ____________________________

Does the speaker:

____ Devote at least 2 minutes to the topic?
____ Clearly announce title of article?
____ Identify the PSC Database used?
____ Briefly summarize the article?
____ Briefly explain the article's thesis / main point?
____ Explain how article will be used in paper?
____ State a research question related to the research paper?
____ Include a statistic or significant fact from article?

Is the article:

____ Suitable for the research paper topic?
____ Relevant to contemporary culture?
____ Within the guidelines of assignment? See topics off-limits in PAL

Time Speaking: 1 min. / 50% ___  2 min. / 100% ___

Do listeners wish to ask the speaker questions or have comments?
Research Paper Typed Proposals: ENC 1101
Issue and Controversies / Informative Slant

Due: Week ______________

Length and Voice: 225 words: Max. 1 page (type, dbl.-sp.); use 1st person.

Assignment: Type a 1-page paper that announces your intentions for the research paper. Use paragraphs and topic sentences to explain the parts below, or use an outline.

Contents: The proposal includes basic information about your individual project, beginning with the topic chosen. The topic should be narrow enough for a 1,200-word paper on an issue or controversy (domestic or global). Historical accounts and biographies are unacceptable. For other topics also off-limits, read the research paper guidelines in PAL.

Topic Explanation: In several sentences announce your topic. A topic is more narrowly focused than the list of suggested subjects. For example, the subject of gender and the family itself is too broad, while the question of how to achieve better pay for single mothers is a topic worth investigating. Likewise, family nutrition is too general a topic, but the causes and effects of overeating in young children is more focused and a subject about which much has been written.

What is the controversy? In a sentence or two, state what is at issue or controversial. Example: Although some believe... others argue that... (Do not choose sides.)

State a research question: Example: How do lifestyles and diet in America today encourage obesity in school-age children? Or a related matter: What can families in our country do to address the problem of obesity among school-age children?

Background: Example: According to recent clinical studies by pediatricians, an alarming number of school-age children are now obese, compared to children of previous generations. Consequently, doctors and dietitians recommend new dietary guidelines for the home and schools alike, along with suggestions for keeping children more physically active.

Statistic: Include a statistic that is relevant to your topic, and name the source.

Relevance: Explain the topic’s relevance to current events/contemporary culture. Reversing childhood obesity is relevant because children who are obese face increased health risks as adults, including diabetes and heart disease.

Interest in Topic: Mention something about why you are choosing this topic.

Sources: Give title and author of at least one book and / or bylined magazine (or journal) article on your topic, and use MLA style. Book titles are in Italic, articles within quotes. If you have trouble finding books and magazine articles, switch topics today!

Thesis Statement: The proposal should not include a thesis statement. That will come later in the research paper itself.
Narrowing the Topic: Suggested Terms / Strategies

- Social
- Educational
- Financial
- Psychological
- Physical / Biological
- Marital
- Legal
- Ethical / Moral / Spiritual
- Familial
- Cultural / Racial
- Environmental
Teenage Obesity

The percentage of obese teens in America seems to be steadily increasing every year. What factors in American society today play a major role in contributing to teenage obesity and what are the problems it creates? This is a good question to take into consideration to truly understand the causes and effects of teenage obesity.

The main reason I have chose to conduct my research paper on the causes and effects of teenage obesity is because I used to be overweight several years ago. Because I used to be obese, I can provide information about the effects it has on teens from personal experience. Also, I want to become aware of the main causes of obesity and find ways to prevent it. This topic is important because overweight people are at a high risk of having health problems and psychological disorders.

Periodic studies over the past few decades have shown that teenage obesity is gradually becoming a bigger problem. A possible cause of the increase in obesity to consider may the fact that technology is becoming more advanced, causing American teens to be less physically active. On LexisNexis.com, I found statistics showing the percentages of obese teens from ages 12 to 18. From 1976-1980 only 4.7% were overweight; from 1988-1994 11.2%, and from 1999-2002 some 16.2% were overweight. I also found a book on my topic title, *Food Fight: The Inside Story of the Food Industry, America's Obesity Crisis, and What We can Do About It*, by Kelly D. Brownell and Katherine Battle Horgen. Based on the information that I found, I know that I can find enough sources on my topic to write my research paper.
The Global Warming Crisis

Due to a widespread concern for global warming, federal climate science research is at the forefront of assessing fundamental causes of global warming and the future dangers it could pose to the nation and the world. Political influence is affecting scientific research about global warming. Interference from government—run environmental agencies is compromising federal climate science results. I am choosing this topic because it is crucial that the most accurate information be transparent and readily available to the public.

Political influence is skewing scientific and public opinion on global warming. Tailoring scientific fact for political purposes needs to be stopped. Global warming is a real threat to our way of life around the world. Having accurate information about the changes occurring in our climate is vital to forming relevant solutions. The impact of global warming on our environment will be devastating unless it is addressed by our government in a serious manner.

In 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency withheld a report concerning the decline of fuel efficiency. They were waiting on Congress to vote on a controversial energy bill that failed to address the current fuel efficiency standards. The report showed a decline of efficiency of cars and trucks since the late ‘80s. The average car and truck got 20.8 mpg in 2006 and 22.1 mpg in the late ‘80s (Wald 5).

I am very concerned for the well being of the environment. The lack of action the government has taken towards resolving global warming issues is deeply disturbing. It is very important for more Americans to be well informed about something that could destroy our planet.
Work Cited

Summary of Magazine or Journal Article
From a PSC Library Database

Due ____________

1. Find a magazine or journal article of at least 3 - 4 pgs in a PSC Library Database (e.g., Opposing Viewpoints; Academic Search Elite; Issues and Controversies; CQ Researcher). Citations may be supplied online, but may not always be in MLA style, so see our Handbook for Writers for Work Cited format

2. Summarize in 3 paragraphs: 1 pg typed & dbl.-sp. (see How to Write a Summary in our syllabus)

3. Title the paper: A Summary of "Title of Article" (centered)

4. Start with: 1) author's name, 2) title of article, and 3) main idea.

Example of the first sentence: In her article "Winning the Weight-Loss War," Gina Simmons argues that weight-loss programs can be successful with the right attitude and reasonable goals.

5. Begin each new paragraph with attribution: e.g., According to the author; the author adds; further, the author argues.... Include only main ideas and key points. Paraphrase mostly, quote sparingly.

6. Work Cited: Place on pg. 2 in MLA style. OK to use supplied citation but check style against examples in our text or handbook (10-pt. deduction without Work Cited pg.)

7. Attach article (required); highlight article key points used and name of database in supplied citation on article

Important:

- To earn a score the article must be attached

- The assignment is to show that a student understands how to use PSC databases (articles from other sources, including Dot-com, are unacceptable for this assignment)
Peer Feedback: Summary

Note: Make any corrections / notations directly on the rough draft

1. Does the first sentence state the:
   ___ article title?
   ___ author's name?
   ___ main point (thesis) of the article?

2. Does the summary support the first sentence with specific facts, details, stories, statistics, and/or explanations?

3. Is the summary limited to one page? Summary should NOT be more than one page typed and double-spaced (that is why it is called a "summary"). 😊

4. Are all the sentences relevant? (supporting the point).

5. Has the writer avoided inserting his/her personal reaction to the article? The summary should not include our reaction.

6. Has the writer included a Work Cited entry at bottom of page?

7. Is the Work Cited entry correct? You'll need the handbook to check this.

8. Any grammar or mechanical errors?
Johanna Turnbull
ENC1102/9007
Summary of signed magazine article
Approx. 250 words

Summary of “The Children Left Behind”

In the article “The Children Left Behind,” Louis A. Arana-Barradas writes about some of the military children at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, and how they cope with the long deployments of their mother or father. According to a 2010 University of Kentucky study, children react differently to the absence of a military parent. Children have their own ways of dealing with the separation. The war does not scare some, but other children fear it. This leads to uncertainty, confusion, sadness, anger and guilt (39). At bedtime, Devan Wilkinson and his younger brother, Brandon, talk about what would happen if their dad did not come home from war, a subject far too serious for boys their age (37). On the other hand, seven-year-old Darion Roberts has a hard time sitting still when he talks about anything, especially when talking about his dad (38).

In addition, Arana-Barradas says, “There’s no doubt the coming months/years will test the families even more. The separations will continue, as will the methods to help families” (41). The confusion and uncertainty these children have to face if often an “overlooked reality of the way of life for military children,” and with the help of the community these children can overcome the fear of their parent not coming back from war.
Work Cited

Checklist for Works Cited Page / ENC1101

____ Does the heading Works Cited appear at the top of the page, centered?
____ Is the entire list double-spaced?
____ Has the author used 12 pt. type, just like in the body of the paper?
____ Is the list ordered alphabetically, last name (of author) first followed by first name?
____ Is the first line of each entry flush left?
____ Are subsequent lines indented five spaces (hanging indent)?
____ Are the titles of magazine articles and book chapters in quotation marks?
____ Are the titles of books and Web sites underlined or italicized? (use either form)
____ Is each entry formatted correctly? Does each entry end with a period?
   Check the handbook for proper form.
____ Did the author give inclusive page numbers for the magazine articles cited?
____ Do citations for Web sites include dates posted and accessed?
____ Are citations for Web sources written in MLA style? New MLA excludes URLs within angle brackets.
____ Are citations for CD-ROM sources written in MLA style? Check the handbook.
____ Can you clearly distinguish the electronic sources from the print-based sources?
____ Does the author list at least 6 works? Count them.
____ Can you find at least 6 parenthetical references in the body of the paper? Count them.
____ Do the works that are listed fit the guidelines of the research paper assignment?
____ When an author's name appears in a parenthetical reference in the body of the paper, is there a corresponding entry on the Works Cited page? Check each parenthetical reference to make sure.
____ Do any sources appear on the Works Cited page and that are not mentioned in the body of the paper? Skim the paper to find out.
Research Paper Checklist / ENC 1101

Reader's Name ________________

1. Does the thesis statement include a topic and a point of view?

2. Does each paragraph begin with a topic or controlling sentence?

3. Does the writer express his or her ideas and not just recite facts and information?

4. Do many of the body paragraphs include one or more parenthetical references?

5. Are the parenthetical references (minimum of six) done correctly?

6. Are main points followed up with research, where necessary?

7. Do quotes and paraphrases have lead-ins, or just thrown in without consideration?

8. Are long quotes used frequently (to fill up space), or sparingly and with purpose?

9. Does the writer take the time to introduce and explain some of his or her sources?

10. Does the discussion make sense, or take up space? What's missing in the paper?

11. Is the conclusion credible, or does it stretch the imagination?

12. Does the author avoid broad generalizations (terms like everyone and always)?

13. Do the paragraphs have any comma splices, run-ons, fragments, and so forth?

14. Does the material hold your interest? If not, what needs to be added?

15. What grade would you assign to the body of the paper at this point?
Drafting the Research Paper and Essay on Research Topic

I. Possible Rhetorical Approaches – The Big Picture

- Something others should know about this topic
- A problem and what needs to be done about it
- Something that is not what it appears to be

II. Scenarios to skip documentation on pg. 1: The Introduction

- "Imagine if" scenario...
- An exaggerated claim
- Startling fact(s)
- Anecdote: real or imaginary

Always follow the above with a clear thesis statement:

1) Topic and 2) Your opinion (not documented)

Examples: Formal Research Paper vs. Informal Essay

**Formal / research paper:** Although the American public has long believed [something], research now suggests [something]...
Uses 3rd person

**Informal / essay:** While researching [the topic] I have learned...I now believe...Although I once thought...
Uses 1st person

III. Scenarios for strong concluding paragraphs

Restate (rephrase the thesis)

Look to the future

End with another story

Now imagine....
Thousands Awake, Unable To Speak During Surgery

BY ROB STEIN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON | Imagine this: You’re lying on the operating table, apparently unconscious. The surgeon is cutting. But you’re still awake. Not only that, you’re paralyzed by the drugs the anesthesiologist gave you and can’t speak out.

That horrifying experience happens to between 20,000 and 40,000 Americans every year, leaving many — not surprisingly — severely traumatized.

Now, a study in Thursday’s issue of the New England Journal of Medicine is raising questions about a monitor used by about 60 percent of U.S. operating rooms in an effort to prevent these frightening cases.

The study involved 1,941 patients who underwent operations at the Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. Anesthesiologists monitored half the patients with a system called BIS (bispectral index system) that analyzes brain waves so doctors can supposedly tell whether a patient isn’t totally unconscious or is starting to wake up. For the other half of the patients in the study, doctors simply paid especially close attention to the dosages of anesthesia.

An equal number in each group — two — turned out to have been awake for at least part of their operations. One 51-year-old patient being monitored by BIS came to during pancreatic surgery and felt “white-hot fire pain” in his abdomen and his “organs and intestines moving around,” the researchers wrote. He remembers “crying and thinking, ‘If someone can see my crying, then someone can help me.’”

Five other patients who were monitored by BIS might have experienced some awareness as well, compared with just one in the other group, the researchers reported.

Michael Avidan of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, who led the study, said his findings raise questions about whether the pricey brain monitors are worthwhile.

Officials at the company that makes the monitor said other studies have demonstrated its usefulness, especially compared with standard operating-room practice.

That typically does not involve the kind of close monitoring that patients in the new study received, said Scott Kelley, medical director at Aspect Medical Systems.

Regardless, Avidan and others said, the findings show that more research is needed to better understand why anesthesia fails.