Self-Check for ENC 1102 Research Paper Portfolio Project

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

___ Summarize a bylined 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 8 required sources (see Guidelines)

✓ Indicate word count on the line after the date

✓ Copies of all 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 1102 Research Paper Portfolio Project
Current Issues and Controversies
Professor Baker

Final Paper Due (see syllabus) ______________
Length 1,800 Words plus a Works Cited page

The Topic Choose a current issue or controversy (domestic or global) in the news that you are interested in and want to learn more about by doing library and Internet research. This paper should emphasize a particular facet of the topic, such as social, cultural, psychological, legal, or ethical aspects. By and large the research paper for ENC 1102 is an argument. To an extent this paper does inform; for example, background information is necessary to introduce the topic and lead up to issues and arguments discussed later. 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.) However, in a position paper one should state clearly the opinions being advanced. Furthermore, present the topic in a fresh light--synthesize--rather than simply report, and be sure to address whether the topic deserves more (or less) attention in the media. 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 Library catalog (for books) and PSC Databases to locate periodical articles classified by subject. Use the PSC Library Lib Guides online to get ideas and locate resources. Check with me first for topic approval.

Format MLA style. Follow MLA style online (OWL). The text should begin with the very first page of the report (no separate title page).

Required Sources At least 8, to be included on Works Cited page

Kinds of Required Sources

- 2 books in print or e-book form (chapter, preface, or introduction)
- 4 magazine or journal articles in print or electronic form
- 1 (or more) articles from a PSC Database

The other source can be
- Magazine and/or journal articles
- Electronic: Web article; online article; CD-ROM
- Personal Interview
- Other books and periodical articles

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.

Audience American Public (dealing with a domestic or global issue)
Rhetorical Approach Clearly explain the controversy devoting equal space to two or more sides; when defending a side or 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.

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 over 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 the 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 Ask at the TLCC test desk to check them out from my files (to remain in the LR building). Also see Lib Guide examples online.
Research Strategies Narrow your topic. 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 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 the main point. 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 Paper Proposal Write a 225-word paper proposing your topic. Points to address: 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. Important: No research paper portfolios will be accepted from individuals who have not first submitted an approved (topic) written proposal in advance.

✓ Proposal Due ____________________ (homework score)

Summary of an article from a PSC Database Write a one-page summary of one signed 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 (homework). If a computer classroom is available, students may volunteer to bring a draft on flash drive for critique on overhead.

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

TLCC Tutor Visit Please visit a tutor in the TLCC at least once and have a tutor read and respond to a "clean" draft of your paper. The paper should already be typed and double-spaced, and free of editing marks, before you visit the tutor. 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, so consider visiting the tutor before we peer review drafts in class. 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 the research materials will be submitted together in a file folder. Place photocopies of all articles and other materials in the research paper 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.

**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, kinds of, and number of sources.

**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** Quotes 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. To earn a score, research paper portfolios must include this signed document.

__________________________  __________________________
Signature                        Date

Name ___________________________ Topic* ___________________________

Date ___________

Does the speaker:

_____ Devote at least 3 minutes to developing the topic?

_____ Clearly announce topic?

_____ Offer background on topic?

_____ Explain his or her interest in topic?

_____ Propose a research question?

_____ Explain what is controversial? (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 an 1,800-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?

Based on the presentation, is the paper intended to be:

_____ Persuasive

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% ___
Research Paper Typed Proposals: ENC 1102
Issue and Controversies / An Argument

Due: Week ________________

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

Assignment: 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 should include basic information about your own individual project, beginning with the topic you have chosen. The topic should be narrow enough for an 1,800-word paper and must be related to current issues in America today. Strictly historical accounts and biographies are not acceptable. For certain other topics also off-limits, read the research paper guidelines handed out in class earlier in the term.

Topic Explanation: First, 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 formulate an argument yet.)

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 Information: 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: Mention 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: Explain something about why you are choosing this topic.

Sources: Give the 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 Italics, 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 can and should change as you write the paper.
Narrowing the Topic: Suggested Terms / Strategies

- Social
- Educational
- Financial
- Psychological
- Physical / Biological
- Marital
- Legal
- Ethical / Moral / Spiritual
- Familial
- Cultural / Racial
- Environmental
Cody Sturgis
14 Feb. 2013
Research Paper Proposal
ENC1101/4034
Approx. 277 words

Teenage Obesity

The percentage of obese teens in American 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 the fact that technology is becoming more advanced, causing American teens to be less physically active. On Lexis-Nexis.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.
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 is 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.
Checklist for Works Cited Page

___ 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, and do they include the URL within angle brackets? New MLA excludes URLs.
___ 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 9 works? Count them.
___ Can you find at least 9 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 1102

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 nine) 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 Introductions For
Formal Research Paper and Informal Essay on Research Topic: 1102

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 Intro

- "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)

Example statements: Research Paper vs. 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.