The Researched Essay, or the Research Paper in Your Field of Study Assignment

This will be, ultimately, a **10 to 15 page researched essay** (MLA or APA formatted) about something that interests you in terms of the working world or your future employment. You could do an essay on some aspect of working in the law, you could write about what it how the LSATs are used by Bolt Law School, you could—in fact—write about nearly anything having to do with employment.

The only requirements for this paper (other than that you be interested in your topic) are that you make use of at least ten sources; two of which must be **books from the library**. This requirement will ensure that you not only get to know the library; it will also ensure that you think about how reliable your resources are.

In this paper it will be okay to use the word “I,” and it will be absolutely necessary for you to do more than simply summarize what you’ve found out. You’ll have to have reasoned opinions and ideas about what you’ve found out as well, and your piece, while it need not have a thesis per se, **must make a point. THIS IS NOT A RESEARCH REPORT.**

We will, over the course of the next weeks, spend a good deal of time going through a research process, and I’m confident that you’ll come out with a fine product at the end of that time.

Now for the practical details.

**Genre Options**

- **The Researched essay.** This is the sort of piece that Bruce Ballenger describes in our packet readings, and you will receive two sample papers in class. Here you have a “research” question that you explore and then write about in a coherent way. You do not take in all the information you can and spew it back at the reader. You are writing, as you have in all your other pieces in this class, to make a point.

- **A Research Piece in Your Field.** If you really know what field you will be going into, then you can do a research paper in your field. You will want to follow the conventions of the field, which means in Education, you would be using headings and subheadings to organize your piece and APA as your style-guide. You do not take in all the information you can and spew it back at the reader. You are writing, as you have in all your other pieces in this class, to make a point. If you choose to do this, make an appointment with Dr. Dean to talk about specifics for your research piece.

- **A Multi-genre paper.** This piece asks you to write a 10-15 page piece that uses research and a variety of genres (such as poetry, memos, letters, and even essays) to create a piece of research that allows you to express yourself creatively. This piece is designed for those who plan on having a career in the arts, or are very interested in the arts. **This piece must have quotations, paraphrases, and documentation, and it is probably the hardest of the three choices to create.**

**The Requirements**

- 10-15 pages in length, **not including** your list of references or works cited.
- The first draft will be at least four pages, including all notes taken for your paper, and your first draft must have a works cited or references page.
- For the final paper, you must not be late. Papers will be due at 5 p.m. on the final due date in Dr. Dean’s office.
- For specific requirements see the rubric.

**The Role**

You are an expert in the field who wants to communicate your **knowledge** and your **opinions and ideas** clearly. Thus, you want to write confidently and with a purpose.

**The Due Dates**

- First Draft (Includes all notes, four pages of text, and a list of “References” or “Works Cited” so far): **MONDAY: 11-20-06. (This piece will be peer reviewed. If you want Chris’ feedback, then you must bring TWO COPIES OF YOUR PIECE TO CLASS.)**
- Final Draft (10-15 pages, all notes, and a complete list of “References” or “Works Cited”): **WEDNESDAY: 11-29-06.**