**Information Competence and Collaborative Project**

The Information Competence and Collaborative Project is a three-part assignment centering on Drew Magary’s book *The Postmortal*. Each group will be assigned one historically significant event. All individual and group work will relate to the event and the connecting themes from *The Postmortal*.

The three-part assignment will consist of:

1. Information Competence (individual)
   1. Research Proposal
   2. Annotated Bibliography
2. Collaborative Project (group)
   1. Group presentation with visual aids and class participation/involvement
3. Individual Essay
   1. Outline
   2. Peer edit
   3. Optional Learning Resource Center visit

Each of the groups will be assigned one of the following:

**September 11th attacks**: In 2001 al-Qaeda, Islamic terrorist group, attacked the U.S. in New York City and Washington, D.C. with high jacked airplanes killing and wounding thousands of people.

**Heaven's Gate**: The mass suicide of 39 religious group members in San Diego, California in connection with the Comet Hale-Bopp (1997).

**Oklahoma City bombing**: A domestic terrorist attack on a federal building downtown Oklahoma City in 1995.

**1992 Los Angeles Riots**: A series of riots following the acquittal of police officers involved in the “Rodney King beating.”

**Kent State shootings:** On May 4, 1970 members of the National Guard killed and wounded a number of unarmed college students protesting the Vietnam War at Kent State University (Ohio). (64-65)

**Watts Riots:** A six day race riot in Los Angeles resulting in 34 deaths.

**Other ideas**: Pearl Harbor attack, Waco Texas Siege, Occupy Movement, U.S. compulsory sterilization, Bay of Pigs Invasion, (66)

I. INFORMATION COMPETENCE PROJECT (Individual Points)

Each member of the group will complete this assignment individually and receive an individual grade. Members will choose subtopics, which stem from their overall main topic. For example, each member of the group assigned Plastic in the Ocean might focus on one of the following subtopics: the effects/consequences of plastic on the fishing industry; current research on the topic; history of the topic; future solutions.

The assignment will have two parts:

1. Individual Research Proposal - Due on Moodle
2. Annotated Bibliography of 4 sources –
   * Including a Cover Page and Research Journal Sheets for all sources

A. Individual Research Proposal (Moodle Post Due \_\_\_\_\_\_)

*(From A Meeting of Minds: Strategies for Academic Inquiry and Writing)*

A **research proposal** is a systematically organized plan for a research project. Research proposals are used for all kinds of writing projects that require more information than you currently have. Knowing how to do a research proposal will help you prepare and complete research projects in college, but you will also find the skills useful in the workplace, for example if you need to apply for grants and support from corporations and agencies, or establish timelines in situations requiring project development, or prepare a book proposal.

Writing a research proposal helps you organize your thinking prior to moving forward on a project, and the proposal allows others to evaluate your plans and make suggestions early in the project's development. Completing a proposal also forces you to consider thoroughly the value of a project before you have invested a lot of time in it.

A. **Introduction**: Introduce your topic. Why did you decide on this particular topic? What part of this topic are you planning to explore? Why is it a topic worth exploring? What do you hope to learn from it? What value might it have for others?

B. **Research Strategy**: A description of how you will go about getting the information you need, what sources you will consult, what leads you have, what difficulties may present themselves.

C. **Working Works Cited**: List your most promising preliminary sources, using MLA format.

B. Annotated Bibliography  (100 points, due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

Each member will produce an individual annotated bibliography containing:

* Two database sources
* One credible web source
* *The Postmortal*

To earn full credit, each of the **4 annotations** must be listed in MLA format and discuss at least 3 of the points listed in the “what an annotation usually includes” section of the library’s online “Creating an Annotated Bibliography” help sheet (Link available on Moodle.) All group members’ annotated bibliographies must contain different sources; you are not being asked to turn in three separate versions of annotations for the same sources. Note: Save these sources (the entire document); you will need them again for your essay.

* **Cover Page**: This explains what each group member will do (name, subject researching and area of focus, if different). Project Proposal: This explains what the Group Project will consist of. The cover sheet should be the same for each group member. Just make sure it has YOUR name at the top in MLA format.
* **Research Journal Sheet**: For each of the sources that you find and intend to use for your annotated bibliography, you must complete the Research Journal Sheet (MS Word). This will help you to evaluate these sources. Remember to print out several copies, so you have one for each of your sources. Attach the sheets to the back of the completed Annotated Bibliography.

II. COLLABORATIVE PROJECT/ PRESENTATION (100 points total)

**Interactive Presentation: 20-25 minutes (Dates: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)**

Your presentation will contain interactive elements to involve your audience, visual aids (paper or electronic) and most importantly, lots of research to be shared with the class. Please do not simply read the visual aid; consider the visual aid an outline or distillation of your presentation’s main points (or just provide photos/illustrations); elaborate beyond the information in the visual aid.

**Portions of the presentation to be awarded group grades:**

1. **Distribution of work (20 points)**: Each student must participate equally and each student must present equal portions of research. Transitions from student to student should be smooth. Your presentation will include (each member will be assigned one of these to focus on):
   1. History of the issue—root causes/influencing factors.
   2. Discussion of the current state of the issue from various perspectives.
   3. Consequences of the issue—why should we care?
   4. Possible solutions, alternatives, or considerations.
2. **Audience Involvement (20 points)**: You have many options to choose from here. You can prepare discussion questions, a quiz, role-play skits, group competition, or something else. But this element should be thoughtfully prepared, rather than improvised.
3. **Visual Component (40 points)**: You may either create a presentation on shared software (such as Google Drive) so all members of the group can access the presentation or prepare a handout. I recommend the shared software option, however, as this way each group member can be responsible to upload his or her portion of the presentation. If one group member fails to meet this requirement by the deadline the group creates, please let me know so I can adjust his/her grade accordingly. Please email me a link or attachment of your visual component for grading purposes.

**Portions of the presentation to be awarded individual grades (20 points):**

1. **Content of presentation**: Remember, this is a research project. Therefore, most of what you say should be derived from your research. While personal anecdotes may provide some context to your presentation, these should not comprise the bulk of your presentation. Also, though class involvement is a required portion of your presentation, keep mind that the majority of the presentation should be research-driven.
2. **Focus of Presentation**: Decide on a key area of focus that is relevant for college students for your research and presentation. For example, you could focus on trends regarding your issue as they relate to college students, possible solutions to your issue, essential information your peers should/would want to know, etc. Keep in mind that your research and presentation should focus on information that your peers can use, or that could directly affect their lives.
3. **Mastery of Material**: Students should talk about their issues with ease and professionalism (including pronunciation of specialized vocabulary.) Content needs to be accurate.
4. **Length**: Each group member should present between 3-5 minutes of research. This will allow ample time for the class participation component and also give you all time to share a meaningful amount of research with your classmates.

III. ESSAY (Individual)

100 points, Due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Over the course of the semester, you have read and analyzed Drew Magary’s book *The Postmortal*. You have also written an Annotated Bibliography on a specific subtopic of the book. Now, **using the sources from the Annotated Bibliography, each student will write a 3-4 page essay on their individual topic.** For example, if your portion of the group project is the “history of dolphins getting injured by plastic bags” that is your essay topic. Another example is the “current state of trash art in Los Angeles.”

The 1st draft is due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a peer edit. Peer editing is a homework assignment so points are awarded for this activity. We may have time in class so be prepared. The final draft is due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. You may turn in the essay early - in print (including all parts of the assignment). **No emailed essays will be accepted.**

Requirements:

* 3-4 pages
* Include an introduction with a clear thesis, body, and conclusion
* 3rd person writing: no you, I, we, etc.
* College level writing: no slang, contractions, wordiness (see the Peer Edit sheet for other notes)
* MLA style (for the whole document)
* Works Cited page (not annotated)
* Quoting from at least 3 Sources (the ones from the Annotated Bibliography). A good rule to follow is to have one important quote in each body paragraph. If you have more than 3 body paragraphs then you may have more quotes. Make sure you introduce the sources in the text.
* Print the rubric (link on Moodle) and include it with the final draft of your essay. (Feel free to use another copy of it for your peer edit.)

**You must staple all of the components of this assignment together when you turn in the final draft. In order from top to bottom: final draft, edited & stamped draft, LRC sheet (extra credit), grading rubric.**

\*Make an appointment with the LRC for help with your essay. Attach the LRC tutor sheet to the back of your final draft for extra credit.