

Individual Research Activities (Part 1)

Due by October 15th, end of day

Use this form to complete part one of your individual research activities. The form breaks down the steps of your individual research in preparation for part two, which is to produce a research collection in a format you choose.

Purpose

To demonstrate a causal relationship between historical events and present day problems by identifying key moments/events/decisions of significance, which you will develop using research and analysis.

Instructions:

Complete each section of this form, which will include the following activities:

- Identify a current U.S. issue as your topic, which can be traced back in U.S. history (no further than 1865).
- Select a current news article that demonstrates the issue/topic.
- Through research activities, find secondary sources that provide three different historical approaches to understanding your issue/topic.
- Develop a research statement that explains your issue, historical approach, and the intentions or plans for your research collection.

If at any point you need assistance, please remember that the MCC librarians will provide you with individual support with your research or you may make an appointment with the instructor.

Section A: Identify Topic

Consider social, political and/or economic challenges that you may have experience or concerns with in present day America (such as constitutional rights; inequitable access or opportunities for education, healthcare or employment; immigration; climate change; environmental resources; and etc.).

Provide your [issue] topic:

Conduct a basic internet search and review current news articles on this issue. Select the article that best represents your topic.

Provide the link to a current news article that demonstrates this issue with a brief summary of the content (one paragraph):

Section B: Literature Review

Conduct an academic secondary source search (using the library resources or articles provided in the course "Research Tools" folder) and select three articles that provide historical context for your topic. Each article should address a different historical approach or perspective.

Provide appropriately formatted bibliography entries for these three journal articles or book chapters:

Provide brief summaries (1-2 paragraphs) of each source:

Section C: Research Statement

Develop a clear and detailed research statement for part two of your individual research, which includes:

- Definition of the issue/topic
- Relevance (why this problem is important)
- Context (what you learned in the literature review)
- Aims & Objectives (what you plan to accomplish through your research in part two)
- For example, if the topic is on environmental resources, your research statement may look like this:

Today's society is more driven by consumerism than ever, creating a culture of disposability in America that has caused devastating environmental consequences. It is important to learn how society began prioritizing goods over the environment in a way that risks the survival of future generations. In part two, I will research how consumerism and technology have created a "throw-away" society.

Provide your research statement: