**Researching an Issue in Your Field**

**Objective:** To research, analyze and understand the significance of a social, environmental or intellectual/academic issue in your field.

You will trace its roots in your field of study, identifying when, where, how, why and by whom it came to be recognized and identified as significant to your area.

You will then explain its current significance/role in your discipline and how you and your colleagues, employers, researchers, and other members of your community can impact this issue.

**Audience:** Fellow students, employees, employers and researchers in the field. Your style and language should appeal to a wide range of expertise, from neophyte to expert.

**Purpose:** To identify, analyze and up-date members of your community on socio-environmental-academic issues that your field must address in order to remain viable and relevant in the 21st century.

**Strategies:** Research the issue from different perspectives, including peer-reviewed journals, trade journals, academic texts, popular magazines and texts, and credible websites.

Example of an appropriate **research questions** for this assignment:

* How do gender issues and gender roles affect the development of curricula for secondary education in North Carolina?
* What effects could climate change have on civil engineering in the next 50 years?

Week One: Class brainstorms potential issues

Week Two: Choose a topic and begin developing a research question

Week Three: Research and take notes on topic; continue to narrow and focus research question

Week Four: Conferences and peer review

Week Five: Revise and polish draft; draft due.