**Researching a Foundation Idea**

Objective: You will take part in a *DaVinci Code*-like exploration, but with better prose and fewer self-flogging murderers. Your job in this paper is to research a foundational idea (concept or innovation) in your field and trace your subject’s progress from discovery, invention, or formulation to growing acceptance and awareness. Also, explain its current application.

Audience: Your readership consists of fellow students in your major field of study who are developing a database of foundation ideas. They value clear writing, correct citations (so they can find your sources and follow their own curiosity), sensible structure, and pertinent information. Here are some of the questions they want answered, though they don’t expect writers to answer all of them.

* What is the first mention of the idea, concept, or innovation?
* How did this idea grow in acceptance or awareness?
* How is this idea presented or defined in discipline-specific sources?
* Is this any different from how it appears or is defined in popular periodicals? (Note: sometimes, meaning is lost or distorted when an idea moves from a specialized forum to a popular one.)
* How does the idea appear in general web sources?
* How is the idea applied in your field? Is this different from how it is applied in popular society

Guidelines: You should choose a foundation idea that is recent and specific. Ideas that are too general or whose history is too long would be difficult to deal with in a short assignment (of 1200-1400 words). You will use the citation style appropriate for your discipline. You exploration will take you through different kinds of sources: journals, trade magazines, popular magazines, and web sites.

Timeline:

Week One: Class comes up with list of foundational ideas.

Week Two: Deciding on a topic,

Week Three: Research and notetaking

Week Four: Conference

Week Five: Peer review and polished draft due