

\* = notes for FTF seminar readers

## **RESEARCH PAPER: EXPLORING A CURRENT EVENT IN YOUR FIELD**

**LENGTH:** 4-5 pages + source list

**DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\* *The target length and the due date would be repeated here from the syllabus/schedule. Overall, the project would be allotted 3-4 weeks for conceptualization, research, drafting, and revising. I would assign some freewriting to help students capture their ideas before introducing the assignment fully because I have found that's effective for having them focus on identifying something that interests them versus getting distracted about the whole paper. Each of the sections below would be further details for daily classwork or homework assignments that would lead to the drafting stages and the conferences.*

### ***Selecting Topics***

The current “event” you choose to explore should be related to your academic/professional goals. It could be a recent happening from the news that is related; a recent discovery, advancement, or product; a local perspective on a larger social movement, etc. It may be something about which you learned through the media, a class, the periodicals searches from previous assignments, etc.

You can get feedback on your ideas for the topic and how you would like to approach it (audience, purpose, etc.) during class on research days to help you move forward with collecting sources, articulating your research question, and planning the paper’s structure.

### ***Getting Started***

We will spend time in class conducting searches through library and other Internet resources with which you have already become familiar through previous classwork/homework.

During the assignment period, partial drafts will be due weekly as noted on the syllabus/schedule from the beginning of the semester. We will have conferences to discuss drafts of your work before the due date.

### ***Technical Assistance***

As you’re working in various stages of your drafting processes, refer to the files on Blackboard to help you evaluate sources, think about parts of a paper, integrate source material, and cite your sources in the text of the paper and in the works cited list. A checklist will be available later for you to use during your editing stages.

### ***Homework Progression***

\* *This section would repeat the series of homework content (i.e., plan, 1.5-page draft, 3-page draft, 3.5-4-page draft, “final” draft submitted for grade, etc.).*