

Final Research Project prompt Spring 2014

For the remainder of the quarter, all of your out-of-class written work will be building towards the final research paper, due during finals week at the end of the quarter.

The whole project will be broken down into four main parts:

- 1) Annotated bibliography: 6 pages (one page per source), typed, double-spaced, in MLA format
- 2) Wikipedia Article: 5 pages, typed, double-spaced, in Wikipedia article format
- 3) Final presentation: 7 minutes; a format of your choosing, such as spoken word, poster, YouTube video, dance or other performance piece, powerpoint (if you must)
- 4) Final Research Paper: 7+ pages, typed, double-spaced, MLA style citations and a Works Cited page

Required number and types of sources:

1 book-length source

2 scholarly articles

2 news sources, with at least one from an established news outlets (*New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, etc). The other news source can be from a blog, or another less established (yet reliable!) news website.

1 other source of your choosing (YouTube video, company website, etc)

Of these 6 sources:

--at least one must use some amount of statistical evidence to back up its claims

--at least one must be a more theoretical text that takes a broader, philosophical approach (think Nicholas Carr) to questions of technology or ethics

Research Project Prompt: In order to give you a broader range of topics to choose from, I am giving you two options for this final research project.

Option I: Impact of Internet Culture

Pick one web-based media service, such as those we have discussed in class (Facebook, Google, Wikipedia, etc) and research its impact on one aspect of social, political, *or* economic life.

Your research question will look something like:

How has (chosen medium) impacted (an aspect of social, political or economic life) ?

For example, you might ask: How has Wikipedia impacted education? Or How has Twitter impacted political elections? Or How has Amazon impacted the business of book-selling?

Obviously, this is a very broad topic, so you have to be sure to develop a clear and cogent research question and strong key words for your search. The most difficult part of this option is honing your research into something that can be tackled in a 7-page paper.

Option II: Human Rights and the Mobile Web

Pick one article from the UN Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) and research a mobile app that attempts to protect that human right. You must clearly state which UNDHR article you are choosing for your project.

You will need to give the history of that app and what the stated purpose of the app is. In some cases, the app might not specifically state that it addresses a UNDHR article, so you will have to explain how you think it protects that right.

This option is a bit easier in that it enables you to focus your research relatively quickly. I can also send you a copy of "A Human Rights Approach to the Mobile Internet" to get you started.

Possible leads to further information for Option II:

Human Rights Watch

Electronic Frontier Foundation

Code for America

Martus.org

Witness.org