

BIS300A Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies: Water Spring 2006

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Preparation for Library Workshop on April 10: Each workgroup is to prepare two questions for library research during the Workshop on April 10. One question is to be based on the natural history/hydrology/science side of the material covered during the first two weeks of class. The second question is to be based on the political, social, cultural, history, economic side of this same material. Each group should have this discussion either live or via e-mail and come to the workshop with the questions written down and a copy available to hand in.

Writing Assignment #2

The purpose of this writing assignment is to *individually* reflect upon the sources of information found in library workshop held on April 10. Discussion with your group members is acceptable and encouraged, but the actual paper is to be conceived and written by each student.

Preliminary Work: Participate in the formulation of your group's two questions, attend Library Workshop I, and pay attention to what your group does during the workshop, taking notes on the results **and process** as you go along. Your group will identify three sources for each question posed.

Topic or thesis: This paper is to be a reflection paper on the results and process of the library workshop on April 10.

For each source found, write a paragraph (approx ½ page) that describes it. Consider the following questions as you compose the description. You don't need to answer each one, but should consider these in deciding what to write about each source:

What is the purpose of each source and what is its intended audience? How does this source address the question you posed? What are you likely to learn from this source? What type of source is it (e.g., news, scholarly, opinion, advocacy, factual, objective, etc?) How did you determine the type of the source? Who is the author? Is this person authoritative in the field? How can you tell? Is there an argument being made in this source? What is it? If there is factual information, where does it come from? What lead your group to this source? Was the search systematic or haphazard? Describe it? Where does this source appear (magazine, scholarly journal, web site, newspaper, government report, etc.)?

Development: Your group should have the necessary six sources at the end of the workshop. You may need to return to them to answer the questions, but you should not need to locate additional sources.

Organization: The sequence of questions above suggests one obvious organization. But, a different one may serve you better. Note that you need to limit your discussion to a single paragraph of about ½ page for each of six sources considered.

Style: This is formal writing and should be an example of good grammar, correct spelling, effective word choice, and articulate sentence and paragraph structure.

Length: No more than 750 words max (approx three pages, double spaced, one inch margins, 12-pt font). *These formats are to be observed!*

Bibliography: A list of endnotes should appear at the end of your paper. Each source discussed should appear there only once. Nothing should appear in the list that is not referenced in the text. If you refer to the same source more than once, cross reference the previous endnote rather than entering the same source twice in the bibliography. Use either the Name-Year or Citation-Sequence system of endnotes, described in the CBE style references.

Schedule: The assignment is due electronically before 6:00 AM on April 18. No late submissions will be accepted.