

## **BIS300A Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies: Water Spring 2006**

### **C. Jackels**

**Preparation for Library Workshop on April 24:** Each workgroup is to select one of the two questions that were used in the previous workshop on April 10 for use during this one. It will be the question that forms the basis of the searching you do on April 25 and of the writing assignment described here.

We will meet in LIB1-222, on Monday, 4/24, at 8:45 AM. This is the same room we used for the previous workshop.

*This assignment and workshop deal with a question that would be a possible research question for a proposal or project. **This is not** the same research question you will be using as your basis for writing assignment #4. Becky Rosenberg will have two workshops with you on choosing research questions. Your question for Writing Assignment #4 will be developed as you work with her in those workshops.*

### **Writing Assignment #3**

The purpose of this writing assignment is to *individually* reflect upon the sources of information found in library workshops. You will evaluate these sources and consider how they would contribute to *writing a proposal* to investigate the question at hand. You will also consider what types of additional sources would be needed for this proposal.

To help with this, you should think about what is needed in any research proposal. You need to identify the question to be studied and create a case that it is interesting and worth studying (i.e. worth receiving the support of the foundation). Part of the proposal, then, is a literature review that situates your question in a broader context and convinces the reader that you have studied and fully understand the work already done on and surrounding this question. In any proposal you would need to address the methods you intend to employ in addressing this question, showing that you understand the methodology and that it is appropriate to this study. Finally, you need to convince the foundation that *your research group* is the one of all others that should be supported for this effort. Finally, in a real proposal, you would specify a budget for the support you are seeking. *This is the overall context; you imagine your present effort to be in the early stages of developing this proposal.*

This is an individual assignment. The writing group shares a question and the list of sources that arise from the workshops. Additional sources and all of the writing are to be products of your own work. *But, you are to use your peer writing group.* Using Catalyst Peer Review, you should exhibit your rough drafts of this assignment to your group and seek their advice on content, organization, and on mechanics. *Discussion with your group members is acceptable and encouraged as part of expected class participation, but the actual paper is to be conceived and written by each student. If you need advice in making effective use of the peer writing group, the Writing Center will assist you.*

After receiving your final submission, **I will post it to your writing group** (before I comment on or grade it) so that the group may be aware of the final product. *That closure should be part of the peer writing process. By handing in the product of this writing group method, you are agreeing to your group (not the entire class) viewing your finished product.*

**Preliminary Work:** Participate in the selection of your group's question, attend Library Workshop II 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 be asked to do a critical source evaluation on the three sources you already have for that question and to find at least one additional scholarly source for it.

**Topic or thesis:** This paper invites you to consider the sources you have identified for this topic, evaluating them as we have discussed in the Library Workshops I and II, and to giving them critical readings, as we discussed with Becky Rosenberg and Cinnamon Hillyard during the Critical Reading Workshop on April 17. In the second part of the paper, you will then indicate how these readings have begun to give you the information needed for the "proposal," find an additional two sources that you would need, and discuss what further sources you would need and how you would find them if you were going to develop a full proposal.

**Development:** For the four sources your group will have identified by the end of the workshop, you are to give a critical evaluation of each source using the principles discussed in the workshop. *(some of this will have been done during the workshop)* After doing a critical reading of each source, you are also to address the following questions about it: What is the important question being addressed by the author? What methodology has been employed to address it? What conclusion or finding is presented by the author?

At that point, *find two additional scholarly sources* that would be needed as part of a full proposal, evaluate them as above, *and indicate why* you sought out those particular sources.

Finally, indicate the nature of the additional sources you would need (beyond those above) to write a full proposal, telling me why you need them and where you think you would find them.

**Organization:** After stating the original question, you should review the four initial sources in sequence. At that point (after approx 2 pages) indicate two additional scholarly sources that you have found, evaluate each one as above, and indicate what each is expected to contribute to the necessary information for the proposal. For the last page or so of the paper, write 1-3 paragraphs that summarize in general terms what you have found, what type(s) of additional information will be needed, and where in the literature you would look for it.

**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 1000 words max (approx four 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 May 5. No late submissions will be accepted.