**Title:** Multiple Format Research or Inquiry-Based Assignment

**Goal:** In this assignment, students will consider how the format of the information product can impact what they are able to convey related to a topic and how their information may be received and valued. Students will investigate a topic or question and share their response in multiple formats. Formats could range from a more traditional research paper or poster to blogs, infographic, video, or even a series of Tweets. Students will be required to consider how the format(s) they have selected might impact what they can or should share and how their message may be received.

**Framework Concepts:**

* Information Creation as a Process
* Authority is Constructed and Contextual

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Understand that different information formats have different capabilities and constraints
* Recognize that information may be perceived differently based on the format in which it is packaged
* Recognize that the choices they make regarding format impacts what content they can/should share and how their information will be received

**Instructions:**

1. Assign students to conduct research on a topic or research question that is relevant to the course. Students could be assigned topics/questions, or could select their own, depending on instructor goals. Depending on the goal for the assignment, these can be “big” questions of the type that would be associated with a course research assignment, or more focused questions that could be answered in a single class session.

2. Have students create their response in two different formats. One could be a traditional format intended for an academic audience, and the other a non-traditional format created for a more general audience. For example, students could write a traditional research paper, and then present their findings as a podcast or a Youtube video. Or, students could develop a traditional poster and an infographic. At a smaller scale, students could write a short summary or abstract in a more formal style and then share the same information in a more informal social media post style.

3. Ask students to write a reflection on how the differing formats compared. Questions could include:

* In changing the format of your response, did your own understanding of the topic or research question change at all? If so, how?
* What did you have to do differently to convert the information from one format to another?
* How did the typical audience for the selected format type impact the information you decided to include?
* Did the format change the amount of information you were able to provide to your audience? If so, how?
* What were the benefits of each of the different formats? What were the drawbacks of the different formats?
* How to you think changing format may impact the way in which your findings might be received?

An alternative version of this assignment could be to divide students into groups and have each group research the same topic or question. Each group could be assigned a different information format to present their response: a blog post, a podcast, a PPT presentation, etc. Students could then review the different information products created by each group and discuss how the format changes the information that each group was able to convey to the audience.