Cast Your Students as Scholars

Full Term Course Assignment Instructions

Below are the instructions provided to students of a one credit course using the Cast Your Students as Scholars lesson plan. The assignment described culminates in their final project. Instructions were available in student's syllabi and Learning Management System, in this case Blackboard.

Research Project Step 1: Create an Information Artifact.

Write 500 words about something you know. You don't have to be an expert, but it should be a topic you think you know more about than the average person or have had personal experience with. Then, tell us how you know what you know. You're not required to use sources, but if you consult them to write your artifact you should attribute the information you borrow to those sources. Citations (informal or formal at this stage) do not count towards your word count.

Submit your artifact to the Research Project discussion board in Blackboard as text, not as an attached document. One of your fellow students is going to research the topic you discuss in your information artifact for their research project. You'll pick the artifact of one of your peers to research for your research project. Once you've submitted your artifact, subscribe to your thread. If the peer that claims your artifact has questions, you're responsible for answering them and subscribing will notify you when anyone posts to your thread.

Research Project Step 2: Choose a Peer's Artifact

Choose a peer's unclaimed information artifact to investigate for your Research Project. If another student has already commented on an artifact to claim it, choose another that has not been claimed.

Having a hard time finding an unclaimed artifact? Check the running list for unclaimed artifacts.

If there are no unclaimed artifacts, email your instructor before proceeding. You must submit your artifact before you can claim a peer's. The topic of the artifact you choose is where you will start your research. Where you take your research is completely up to you.

Let's consider the example artifact attached above: Carnivorous plants. If you were researching this topic, you might be interested to know a variety of different things…

- How have carnivorous plants been used as symbols in popular media?

- How do the characteristics of bog ecosystems support carnivorous plants?

- How are the different trap types of carnivorous plants adapted to their environments?

- In what ways does personifying/anthropomorphizing plants as pets have social or psychological benefits?

- How does Charles' Darwin's discovery of carnivorous plants fit into the context of carnivorous naming, historically?

These are five sample research questions you might have if you choose the sample artifact to research, and there are plenty of other directions you could take this research. None of these questions are

answerable with a yes, no, or a simple list of items. They all encourage the researcher to make sense of a more complex idea. Sometimes, this is as simple as rephrasing your question, but it gives you a better framework for your research.

All of these questions are answerable with scholarly resources- these are the kinds of questions we might expect scholars to try to answer, which is important because you need to use two scholarly sources in your project (books written by academics or journal articles). These questions are all related to the original artifact (some of them very indirectly, and that's ok!). Where you take your research is up to you, and ideally, you would choose a direction that interests you.

Notice, I didn't ask: "Why do carnivorous plants eat bugs?" or "What are different types of carnivorous plants?" These are good questions that you may well want to the answer to, but they are questions that can be answered with encyclopedia entries- established, agreed on knowledge. Want to know more about this? Read about background research in the modules. For this project, and any academic papers, you need to go a step further.

It's okay to pick a direction now and adjust as you get searching. You can always go back and adjust your search.

Research Project Step 3: Research

Once you have a topic, it's time to do some research. You'll work on your research independently outside of class, using what you've learned in the modules and class activities. Grafton's article databases are a great place to start. To find the databases, click on the Databases and Resources link on the library homepage. It's the middle button under the GLDYS search. Choose the subject you think your research relates to best to discover databases to use to search for articles. Don't see a subject that matches? Use a general database- JSTOR or Academic Search Complete.

Citing your Peer's Artifact

The research project assignment requires you to use and cite the artifact you choose from your peer, but this isn't a common type of source to cite. Here are examples in the three major citation styles. I have modified them to not include URLs.

MLA (based on the OWL @ Purdue example for a [Discussion Group or Blog Posting](#))

Author. "Thread title." *Name of site, discussion or blog*, Institution or Publisher, Post Date.

 Jones, Anaya. "Carnivorous Plants, A. Jones." *INT103 Discussion Board*, Mary Baldwin University Blackboard, 12 Sept. 2018.

APA (based on the OWL @ Purdue example for an [Online Forum or Discussion Board Posting](#))

Author. (Post Date). Thread Title. Message posted to Name of Site, discussion or Blog.

Jones, Anaya. (2018, September 12). Carnivorous Plants, A. Jones. Messaged posted to INT103 Discussion Board, Mary Baldwin University Blackboard.

Chicago/Turabian (based on the OWL @ Purdue example for a [blog](#))

Note:

r.jones2@snhu.edu

1. Author, "Thread title," *Name of site, discussion or blog*, Post Date, Institution or Publisher.

1. Anaya Jones, "Carnivorous Plants, A. Jones," *INT103 Discussion Board,* September 12, 2018, Mary Baldwin University Blackboard.

Bibliography:

Author. "Thread Title." Name of site, discussion or blog. Post Date. Institution or Publisher.

Jones, Anaya. "Carnivorous Plants, A. Jones." *INT103 Discussion Board.* September 12, 2018. Mary Baldwin University Blackboard.

Finding and Citing Images
Resources to find images with Creative Commons Licenses or in the Public Domain:

- Creative Commons Image Search

- Photos for Class

- Pixabay

- More...

When you use material created by someone else you need permission to use the material, or you need to confirm that the material is usable under the terms of its license. Then, you need to both attribute where your photographs come from, and indicate that you are allowed to use them under the terms of their license or with permission.

You can do this in the citation style you choose by adding to copyright info to your citation, or you can use the format commonly accepted on the web: (c) Author Name [hyperlinked to author's page] "Name of work [hyperlinked to where you found the work]" License [hyperlinked to license]

Example:

 (c) Jennifer C "Cat" CC BY 2.0

Research Project Step 4: Submit your Research Project
When you're finished, submit your research project and bibliography both here in the assignment drop box (click on the title above) and as a reply to your peer's thread (for the artifact you claimed) in the discussion board.

Your research project is your final exam. You cannot pass this class without completing it. You must write and design your own project. Work duplicated between students, copied from sources or reused from previous assignments is plagiarism.

How will your project be graded? Here's how:

Title, Author, Date & Declared Citation Style: 5pts

Your research project needs to include the following information: The title of your project, your name as the author, the citation style you've chosen to use for this assignment (APA, Chicago or MLA), and the date. Projects that include all required elements earn full points.

Info: 15pts

Share what you've learned through your research on the topic of your peer's artifact. Where you take your topic and what you choose to do with it is up to you. Stumped? Talk to your instructor. Projects that introduce a topic and synthesize information from several sources to provide coherent and cohesive information in at least 500 words (not including title information or citations) and utilize mostly paraphrased information and directly quoted information in moderation earn full points.

In-text Citations: 10pts

In-text citations should indicate where you have borrowed information. Paraphrase most information, but directly cite at least once. In-text citations that correctly identify borrowed information and the method of borrowing, in the style declared on your title page earn full points.

Images: 10pts

Projects that include two or more photos with citations that acknowledge their creator and indicate appropriate licenses or permissions for use earn full points. Cite your images per the example in the Research Project folder in Blackboard. A note about images in the public domain: While it's true that you're not usually required to attribute images in the public domain, you are required to do so for this project. Instead of the creative commons license abbreviation, include either CC0 or text explaining that the image belongs to the public domain.

Design: 10pts

Visually appealing research projects formatted and designed to support the information they present earn full points.

Research Project Step 5: Peer Review

A reflection to bring this project full circle, this review is not meant to be an opportunity to critique what other students have done with your artifact, but to explore how someone else has built on what you started and how this exchange of information mirrors the scholarly peer review process. It's a chance to identify new things you learned from them and potentially engage with any missed opportunities. You'll find your peer's research project in the discussion board as a reply to your artifact. Submit your peer review of at least 350 words here.