

Well-Written Library-Related Assignments Best Practice Excerpts from Messiah College Faculty

AUDIENCE:

First Year Seminar paper (Jonathan Lauer)

- A local chapter of the Evangelicals for Social Action OR Readers of the Harrisburg *Patriot News* arts section OR first-year Messiah film students

Exercise Physiology research paper (Doug Miller)

- Write the paper in a scholarly fashion, yet in a way that someone without your technical, academic background could still understand. (J. Lauer)

OBJECTIVES:

Nutrition assignment (Kay Witt & Amy Porto):

- To enable students to practice selecting the key words and phrases needed to locate nutrition information about a topic of interest
- To enable students to practice searching professional journals for articles of interest using Medline

Nursing 201A (Nursing Dept.)

- To use the literature to find information about alternative medicine/therapy topics with a focus on how the particular therapy would relate to nursing.
- To conduct a search using a literature database.
- To prepare an annotated bibliography using APA format.

TOPIC SELECTION:

Theatre History assignment (Valerie Smith):

- Find a Topic not a Subject. Make the distinction between a subject (Elizabethan theatre) and a topic (The boy actor in Shakespeare's London: 1595-1603). Subjects are broad areas of interest. A topic involves a specific and containable study that can be conducted within the confines of time and resources available.

Nutrition assignment (Kay Witt & Amy Porto):

- Use PubMed to search for professional articles related to your question. ... Please be aware that it may be difficult to find professional articles on some topics, particularly fad diets and dietary supplements. You may need to expand your topic if you obtain too few references. On the other hand, if you chose a very broad topic, you may need to narrow it to obtain a manageable number of citations.

LIBRARY RESOURCES:

History of Music II (Tim Dixon):

- Identify no fewer than seven high quality sources which discuss this genre and/or your chosen composition to some degree; you must consult and identify books and articles on several levels: general studies (e.g., other survey music history texts, *New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians*, etc.) to specific (genre studies, academic articles on specific pieces or aspects of genres).

Exercise Physiology (Doug Miller)

- Only submit bibliographic information on articles that are research studies (not review articles) from peer-reviewed journals, and address your research question. Your list should include 5-10 articles.

Reading I (Anita Voelker):

- You must use a minimum of six recent (1998 — 2011) resources. You must include a minimum of two studies. I recommend that you avoid books, unless there is a particularly helpful chapter. However, conference papers are often excellent sources of recent scholarship and worth reading. In addition, you may use any ERIC documents, or other scholarly journal articles (prior to 1998) as additional references, but you must have six recent scholarly references.

Theatre History (Valerie Smith):

- Primary Sources: 2 plays of the period; 2 non-literary primary sources
- Secondary Sources: 5 books on your subject or topic published between 2000 and 2010;
2 articles from theatre journals such as *Theatre History Studies*, *Theatre Survey*, *Theatre Topics*, etc.

GRADING RUBRIC

Social Welfare Policies in the U.S. (Charles Seitz)

- 30 points – Adequately followed the format outlined in the syllabus
- 30 points – **Met research requirements and demonstrated research informed understanding of concepts and how client interactions informed research**
- 40 points – Adequately incorporated interviewing process into the paper
- 40 points – Demonstrated an ability to analyze and assess the information and draw appropriate conclusions
- 20 points – Organization, clarity, evidence of proofing, **APA style documentation** (college standards of writing and composition are expected)
- 20 points – Specifically addressed how the policy oppresses, marginalizes, alienates, or creates or enhances privilege and power with systems or groups
- 20 points – Presentation of research findings during finals week

PLAGIARISM

Valerie Smith:

There is no academic misconduct more serious than plagiarism and yet plagiarism is most commonly carried out by those who do not understand what it is. Here are some general guidelines regarding plagiarism:

- When in doubt, cite your source.
- Never copy someone else's work and submit it as your own.
- Unless it is an extremely well known fact ("George Washington was our nation's first president."), cite your source.
- [good to add: If you have changed a quote into your own words, you must still cite the source.]
- Do not submit a paper written for another course. No recycling.
- There is nothing wrong with borrowing someone else's ideas, but you must cite the source for those ideas.