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| **Week**  **Two** | **Beginning Your Research** |
| Goal(s) | Get a sense of what your Pathfinder project will be and what relevant resources are available to you. |
| Overview | It's time to think about choosing a topic!  You can begin by raising your awareness of possible topics. Pay attention to global issues that you run across on the Web, in the newspaper, on the radio, on television, and in conversation with others. Issues may be political, economic, aesthetic, environmental, social, psychological, scientific, or medical, you name it. As you think about these global issues, consider how they might relate to your local community.  You can come up with many ideas but at this point it is important to note that these ideas are only broad topics, very preliminary and undefined. In this unit you will also craft your topic into a research statement or thesis. |
| Objectives | * Define a global topic that you will research * Identify the characteristics and variety of formats of information resources * Become familiar with the academic library resources available to you * Construct a collective criteria for evaluating information. * Apply evaluation criteria to the information sources you use. |
| Other Comments | Be sure to print the contents of the week’s assignments to use as a checklist. |
| Course Outcomes Addressed | * Develop and research a topic of global significance * Recognize authors’ arguments and the political, social and economic motivations behind their work * Develop an understanding of significant information-related issues * Demonstrate the ability to locate, interpret and cite the relevant and appropriate information resources on a topic * Demonstrate an understanding of the information research process |

**Week 2 Assignments:**

* Selecting a Topic: Review possible global topics.
* Global Topic Proposal: Write a global topic proposal.
* Academic Library Services to Distance Learners: Contact the community college where you registered. Discover what information services and resources are available to you through your community college library.
* Publications Cycles: Become familiar with publication cycles in social sciences, sciences, and humanities and reflect on how they might affect the research process.
* Evaluating Information Sources: Begin to think about the quality of information you use.
* Weekly Reflection: Reflect on the course content. Reflect on the application of the course content to your life. Review how well you have applied your time management skills during the week.