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| Title | **Introduction, Topic Analysis and Research Process Draft** |
| **Due Date** | **Tuesday** |
| Where to Post | Click on"New Post" button above and type your response in the space provided below.  Click Save. |
| Subject | Your Name / Introduction, Topic Analysis and Research Process DRAFT |
| Points | 10 |
| Criteria | * On time, submitted in proper format, correct subject line. Correct grammar, spelling and usage. * All elements of the assignment are included. Only sources of high quality are included. |
| Objective | To organize and report on the high-quality results of your research process. |

This assignment will serve as a draft of what will become a part of your final project. Here you will make sure that you have everything you need for your Pathfinder. Your assignment will be graded on the QUALITY of the sources and your work and whether or not the correct elements of the Pathfinder are included.

**Step One:**

Go to the Lessons tab, and click on "The Pathfinder (Final Project)." Now click on "The Pathfinder" and review the requirements. Please complete all the parts shown below.

1. **Introduction**

Working from the "Scope" section of the Research Plan you prepared during Week 5, expand and revise this section into an "Introduction" to your project. You will introduce and describe your research topic in 1000+ words. This should include your research statement or research question and a discussion of your topic. Include a description of the scope of your research: What geographic region or historical (or current) time frames are involved? What other factors or considerations should your reader know about? This is the area of your Pathfinder where you have the opportunity to get into the issues and substance of your research.

2. **Topic Analysis**

This section should include your description of the topic from the point of view of how the information on this topic has been retrieved. You must cover the following areas:

* Identify the academic disciplines which might include the study of your topic (e.g. medicine, history, psychology, sociology, literature, religion, etc.)
* List the Library of Congress Subject Headings that were most effective in identifying material in Library Catalogs. (You do not need to include the classification numbers.)
* List the key word terms which helped you use different databases.
* List the most important databases and other periodical indexes.
* Identify at least one organization associated with your topic and provide pertinent contact information for each. Write a 2-3 sentence explanation as to how it relates to your topic.
* Identify at least one source of statistical information associated with your topic. Write a 2-3 sentence explanation as to how it relates to your topic. Please give a SOURCE for statistics not a statistic. Include the MLA citation.
* Write a brief description of your experience identifying subject headings and key words.

#### **3. Research Process**

Write a 350 word essay on your research process in which you

* Describe your strategies for finding information and how you overcame any challenges, such as too much or not enough information.
* Discuss the nature of your topic.
* Discuss the kind of information you have found and speculate on how the nature of your topic affects the types of information available. Explain why you think this was the case. (For example, if your topic is very current, you may have found newspapers to be especially important sources. In this case, you might also explain what other sources, such as reference and books contributed.)
* Describe any differences between what you expected to find and what you found to be most useful.
* Compare the Internet as an information resource with other information resources you found on your topic.

Post your work below.

#### **Step Two:**

Review the work of two of your classmates, 50+ words each.

Please offer positive and supportive comments. At the same time, you must also provide substantial constructive criticism in order to receive credit. Keep in mind that you can and should provide constructive criticism in a positive way: ask questions, suggest alternatives, or note where something isn't complete or clear to you, particularly in the annotations.

Keep in mind that for the purpose of this class, we are more interested in the quality of the information and how to find it than in debating the topic issues themselves.