The culminating experience for this course will be a substantive paper in which you will conduct research within your intended major or discipline. Thus, if you are a business major, you will conduct research within the business field and create an authentic approach to a question at issue related to the business field. This format would be the same if you are an English, History, Engineering, Biology etc. **PLEASE NOTE, YOU ARE NOT WRITING A PAPER DISCUSSING WHY YOUR MAJOR IS THE BEST MAJOR FOR YOU. YOU ARE IDENTIFYING AN ISSUE WITHIN YOUR FIELD AND RESEARCHING A QUESTION BASED ON THAT FIELD OF STUDY.**

Please note, it is my goal to assist you in completing this assignment to the best of my ability. I am not, however, able to tell you what you should write about. If you have questions about your specific topic in your discipline, I encourage you to reach out to the outstanding faculty we have available on campus. This would be a great opportunity for you to become acquainted with experts in the field and I am confident they would welcome your interests in the field.

You will be taught how to conduct research and use sources in a meaningful way to develop and further your argument. This is something that will be a very rewarding experience. **This is not something that you want to put off until the last moment.** You should begin to brainstorm and consider what topic you would like to discuss and begin to formulate tentative arguments NOW.

You will be asked to synthesize information. What this means is to use resources in a coherent way to further your argument. In addition, you may want to consider responding to the arguments and writings of others in your research paper. It is very important that you understand you are not simply retelling what scholarly sources have said. In contrast, you are using the rhetoric and the arguments of others in a meaningful, thought provoking way **to further your own argument.**

The research project will have several components. These components are meant to help guide you in the process and ensure you are on the correct path. There are four elements to the research project:

1) Research Proposal
2) Annotated Bibliography
3) Research Rough Draft
4) Research Final Draft

All of these assignments are due at specific times during the course. If you want to make sure you are on track, please refer back to the schedule of assignments.

**Format**
* The research paper should be between **8-10 full pages**
* You should incorporate anywhere between 7-8 **scholarly** sources (3-4 Articles, 3-4 Books, 1-2 Websites, it is your responsibility to ensure all sources are scholarly in nature)
* Times New Roman Font; 12 pt.
* When citing sources, you will use whatever format your prospective major uses (i.e. APA, MLA)
* Proper heading indicating Name, Course, Instructor’s Name, Due Date
* Thank you note to appear at the end of the paper acknowledging peer reviewers

Please note, should you fail to complete the assignment as outlined, you may receive a zero for the entire assignment. As an example, turning in seven pages does not complete the assignment as outlined.