

### *First project assignment guidelines, Spring 2013 University of Arkansas*

As you read sources about your chosen topic, you will start to see common threads between those sources, and you will also discover different perspectives and methodologies used by professionals in your field. In many American universities, you write about these common threads in a literature review; in other contexts, you may write about these trends or causes and effects in an informative report. By reporting on the interplay between your sources' ideas, you prepare yourself to integrate multiple sources into an academic paper and portray your own ideas in light of recent findings in your field.

For your first project, you have two choices:

- Write a 750-1,000 word (2-3 double-spaced pages) informative report in which you explain to your reader the recent trends in your sources' research on a topic OR the causes and effects of a particular decision according to your sources' research. You should include at least three sources in your report. Your project will have two main purposes: to objectively explain the connections between the sources' findings, arguments, and/or reasoning and to help your reader understand the state of the problem or issue today. You should include a title page and abstract in your front matter; an introduction, a statement of purpose, and body paragraphs in the body of your report; and a references page in your back matter. You do not need to include an executive summary and you should not include your recommendations.
- Write a 750-1,500 word (2-4 double-spaced pages) literature review in which you articulate the relationship between at least four sources and establish the relationship between the sources and the state of research in the field. Your project will have two main purposes: to objectively explain the connections between the sources' arguments and reasoning and to help your reader understand possible directions for future research. You should structure your paper logically and coherently in keeping with the expectations of an academic essay and include an academic introduction and conclusion.

Remember to cite, integrate, quote, and paraphrase your sources correctly and attach a References page (or other bibliography page appropriate to your field) that lists all of the sources you cited in the text of the project.