

## Major Project 4: Research Brief

For this assignment you will choose a timely issue that is of interest to you and conduct primary and secondary research on that issue. You will produce a five – seven page informative brief written for a **specific audience**, chosen by you. Your **purpose** will be to **inform** your target audience about the issue through careful synthesis of available research.

As part of your work for this assignment, you will also write an Annotated Bibliography (10%) of three of your sources your scholarly or popular sources. Researchers and scholars often write brief, descriptive summaries of the texts they read as a service to others who might be interested in the same issue. Creating annotations is also a good way to ensure that you fully understand the text (more on this assignment later).

The research brief you produce should be formal in tone and voice. You will draw on between 5 – 6 sources. At least three of the sources will be original, scholarly research or material from reputable, popular magazines (e.g. *Popular Mechanics*, *Time*, etc.) that you find through the library databases. You may not use websites unless you first clear them with me, and you may not use more than one. Briefs should contain visual elements of design that function rhetorically to communicate and reinforce your claims.

**Length: 5 – 7 pages**

**Sources:** 5 – 6 scholarly and popular articles; some web sources okay, if approved by me in advance

**Important Dates** (subject to change):

- March 10<sup>th</sup>: Topics due
- March 12<sup>th</sup>: Library Orientation Session
- March 13<sup>th</sup>: Sources due
- March 27<sup>th</sup>: Annotated Bibliography due
- March 31<sup>st</sup>: First Draft due
- April 1<sup>st</sup>: Revised Draft due
- April 14<sup>th</sup>: Final Draft due

Areas of focus: research, synthesis, paraphrase, citation, and organization