

## Model Research Assignment to help you learn the CCOL and start your literature review!

August 2009 version for CCOL with the *EBSCOHost Find It Fast* search box

### Model Research Assignment

Using the MS Word version allows you to create more space for your answers. The MS Word version is posted on the “Instructional Handouts” page linked on the CCOL HOME page and on <http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/library/research.cfm>

All handouts marked with an \* can be found by: from the CCOL HOME page click *Instructions & Help*, then click *Instructional Handouts* or go to <http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/library/research.cfm>

**Introduction:** Doing these exercises will give you practice and familiarity with the resources and services of Cambridge College Online Library, and will teach you lifelong information literacy skills for finding and evaluating information. If you search the topic you have chosen for your ILP, IRP or other research paper, these exercises will give you a running start for your research and Literature Review!

For instructions for using all the features of Cambridge College Online Library, see the *How to Use Cambridge College Online Library Handbook*.\*

For APA instructions, click *APA Style Instructions* from the CCOL HOME page, or see the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> edition) or other APA publications.

### Exercise #1: What are you researching?

Depending on your instructor’s assignment, what is your research topic, research question, problem statement, or thesis statement? It doesn’t matter which format you use as long as you know what you are looking for.

#### Hints:

A **research topic** might be: *parent participation in the elementary school*

A **research question** might be: *How can parent participation in the elementary school be increased?*

A **problem statement** might be: *Only 10% of the parents at my elementary school have ever served in any volunteer capacity. Without increased help, many programs cannot continue.*

A **thesis statement** usually has three parts: topic, opinion, and supporting arguments. For example, here are two thesis statements on the same topic, but they have a different opinion and arguments:

*Parent participation in the elementary school can be increased by instituting formal programs, having support from the school administration, and cooperation from teachers.*

*Parent participation in the elementary school cannot be increased due to lack of funding, discouragement from administrators, and resentment from teachers.*

**Write your research topic, question, problem statement, or thesis statement here:**

**What search terms will you use? Try to list at least three.**

### **Exercise #2 Finding a scholarly article using EBSCOHost Find It Fast in CCOL**

*EBSCOHost Find It Fast* lets you simultaneously search all our databases. Start your search at *EBSCOHost Find It Fast* on the CCOL HOME page.

**Find a full-text article from a scholarly journal using *EBSCOHost Find It Fast* to fill in the information below. If you get a citation-only result that interests you, keep a record of it for Exercise #6:**

Search terms that worked

Search terms that didn't work

Title of article

Author(s)

Name of periodical

Date

Volume

Issue

Page Numbers

html or pdf?

**What are the author's credentials?** If it isn't in the article, run a google search.

**What are the periodical's credentials? How do you know it is "scholarly?"** If it isn't in the article, run a google search. A periodical that doesn't have a website has questionable

credentials. For help determining if it is scholarly, see the handout *How to Identify and Read a Scholarly Article or Book*.\*

**Give the complete APA citation as it will appear in the References page:**

**Write a sentence quoting or paraphrasing from this source, with in-text citation:**

**This article includes content that is (check as many as are true):**

- description and results of a research study
- background or history of the topic
- consequences of the topic
- theory on the topic
- literature review of the topic
- other? \_\_\_\_\_

**How will this item be relevant to your question, problem, or thesis statement? How will you use this information in your paper? For example,**

Will it provide the background, history, or consequences of the problem for your problem statement?

Does it provide solutions that will lead you to your own research or project?

Will you use the theory to understand and argue your research question, problem, or thesis statement ?

Will you use the research study to prove that your project or research is based on proven information?

Will the literature review help you find more information to support your research or project?

**How will this item be relevant to your question, problem, or thesis statement? How will you use this information in your paper? For example,**

Will it provide the background, history, or consequences of the problem for your problem statement?

Does it provide solutions that will lead you to your own research or project?

Will you use the theory to understand and argue your research question, problem, or thesis statement ?

Will you use the research study to prove that your project or research is based on proven information?

Will the literature review help you find more information to support your research or project?

### **Exercise #3 Finding a Book in the Ebrary Electronic Books collection**

There are more than 43,000+full-text books in the Cambridge College Online Library. For instructions for Ebrary Electronic Books see *How to Use CCOL Handbook*.\*

The Ebrary Electronic Books collection can be searched from *EBSCOHost Find It Fast*, or from the CCOL HOME page click *Direct to Databases*, then click *Ebrary Electronic Books*

**Find a relevant book in the collection.** Because this book collection is relatively small, the book might have to be more general than your topic. For example, if your topic is “parent participation in the elementary school,” the book might be on the current problems in America’s elementary schools.

Search terms that worked:

Search terms that didn’t work:

Title of Book

Author (s)

Publisher

Date

Place of Publication

Edition

**What are the author’s credentials?** If it isn’t in the article, run a google search.

**How do you know the book is “scholarly?”** If it isn’t in the book, run a google search. For help determining see the handout *How to Identify and Read a Scholarly Article or Book*.\*

**Give the complete APA citation as it will appear in the References page:**

**Write a sentence quoting or paraphrasing from this book, with in-text citation:**

**This book includes content that is (check as many as are true):**

description and results of a research study

background or history of the topic

consequences of the topic

theory on the topic

literature review of the topic

other? \_\_\_\_\_

**How will this book be relevant to your question, problem, or thesis statement? How will you use this information in your paper? For example,**

Will it provide the background, history, or consequences of the problem for your problem statement?

Does it provide solutions that will lead you to your own research or project?

Will you use the theory to understand and argue your research question, problem, or thesis statement ?

Will you use the research study to prove that your project or research is based on proven information?

Will the literature review help you find more information to support your research or project?

#### **Exercise #4 Finding information from an original Web page**

There's a lot of information on the web, some of it highly credible and some of it highly incredible. The most credible original web pages are usually on the sites of credible organizations such as the National Education Association or American Counseling Association. To help you evaluate, see the handout *Checklist for an Informational Webpage*.\*

On the web, it is sometimes hard to tell whether you are looking at original webpage content written just for the web, or material that was already published in a periodical and then posted on the web.

**Search until you find a page that does not indicate that it is from a periodical posted on the web, so that you can get practice evaluating information on an original webpage.**

Search terms that worked:

Search terms that didn't work:

Title of page

Author(s)

Name of organization

Date you retrieved it

Date on the page (such as copyright or "recently updated" date)

URL of page:

**What are the author's credentials?** If it isn't in the article, run a google search.

**What are the organization’s credentials? Look for an “About Us” type page for the website.** For help determining if it is scholarly, see the handout “How to Identify and Read a Scholarly Article or Book.”

**Give the complete APA citation as it will appear in the References page:**

**Write a sentence quoting or paraphrasing from this webpage, with in-text citation:**

**This webpage includes content that is (check as many as are true):**

- description and results of a research study
- background or history of the topic
- consequences of the topic
- theory on the topic
- literature review of the topic
- other? \_\_\_\_\_

**How will this webpage be relevant to your question, problem, or thesis statement? How will you use this information in your paper? For example,**

Will it provide the background, history, or consequences of the problem for your problem statement?

Does it provide solutions that will lead you to your own research or project?

Will you use the theory to understand and argue your research question, problem, or thesis statement ?

Will you use the research study to prove that your project or research is based on proven information?

Will the literature review help you find more information to support your research or project?

### **Exercise #5 Using WorldCat to locate a book or journal in print form**

WorldCat tells you which local library has the book or journal that you want. Use WorldCat when you cannot find the full-text journal or book online, or if you want to see the print version. For instructions for finding and using WorldCat, see *How to Use Cambridge College Online Library Handbook*.\*

If you did not find an article you wanted in full-text online in your previous searches, search for the issue of the journal that contains it using WorldCat (search by the title of the journal, not the title of the article.) Or, use your search terms to find a relevant book in a local library that you would like to see:

Title of Book or Journal

Author (s)

Which local library(s) open to the public has the journal issue or book?

### **Exercise #6 References Page**

APA requires a page called “References” which gives the complete citations of all the books, articles, webpages, brochures, films, or other media that you quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise cited in your research paper. This allows the reader to locate and evaluate your sources of information. The References page gives your work credibility.

For instructions for making a References page, from the CCOL HOME page click *Instructions & Help*, then click APA Instructions. Or see the *Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> edition).

**Since you haven’t written your paper yet, you don’t know if you will cite all the sources you found for these exercises, but just for practice use them all to create a References page which contains:**

- An article from an online scholarly journal
- A book from Ebrary Electronic Books
- An original web page
- A book or journal article you located in print in a local library using WorldCat

**\* All handouts with a \* referred to in this assignment can be found by: from the CCOL HOME page click *Instructions & Help*, then click *Instructional Handouts*. Or go to <http://www.cambridgecollege.edu/library/research.cfm>.**

**That’s the end of the Model Research Assignment! Congratulations for learning lifelong skills for research and information literacy and for getting a head start on your ILP, IRP, ARP, or other research paper.**