

# RESEARCH/WRITING ASSIGNMENTS: ALTERNATIVES TO THE TERM PAPER

PREPARED FOR BINGHAMTON SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM - 2004  
INSTRUCTORS' WORKSHOP

JUNE 29, 2004

JANET HOGAN, INFORMATION LITERACY COORDINATOR  
BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
[jhogan@binghamton.edu](mailto:jhogan@binghamton.edu); 777-6355

1. Prepare an annotated bibliography of (10) information sources on a specific topic (related to the experiences of first year college students or an issue related to multiculturalism or diversity). The sources could be book chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles, popular magazine articles, newspaper articles, articles from specialized (subject) encyclopedias.
2. Locate a peer-reviewed or refereed journal article using *Expanded Academic ASAP* or *PA Research II* on a topic of their choice. Then locate a popular or opinion article on the same topic from the database. Compare and contrast the two articles.
3. Contrast two periodical articles or editorials from recent publications reflecting conservative and liberal points of view.
4. Contrast two journal articles that discuss the same topic from two different time periods. For example:
  - compare and contrast the coverage of a specific event in the Civil Rights Movement.
  - pick a topic from the 60s or 70s (or the year you were born); research the same topic in the literature of the 90s. Compare and contrast.
5. Locate an article in the popular press and the corresponding original research article in a scholarly journal on which the popular article was based. Locate related articles; discuss the relationship between the popular article and the original research. Critique the popular article with regard to accuracy.
6. After reading a literature work (poetry, book, short story, essay, etc.) write your personal reaction to it. Then find one or two reviews (if it is a book) or a critical analysis of the work. Write a short paper telling how or if the review or critique changed your perception of the story.
7. Use two different indexes or databases to locate two articles on the same topic. Evaluate whether the articles have similar viewpoints or biases, who is the intended audience, etc. Create a third opinion from contrasting two different opinions.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WEB SOURCES FOR ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENTS

Cichewicz, J. (1998). *Library Research Assignment Ideas*  
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/instruct/assignments/> (University of Michigan)

Hoag, T. (1998). *Some Successful Library Assignments*  
<http://www.farmingdale.edu/library/compd.html> (SUNY Farmingdale)

Kupersmith, J. (2001). *Effective Assignments Using Library Resources*  
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/assignments.html>, (California at Berkeley)

Laverty, C. (1998). *Designing Library Assignments*  
<http://library.queensu.ca/inforef/instruct/design.htm> Stauffer Library (Queens University, Kingston, Ontario)

Norem, M. (2001). *Weaving Your Assignments into the Web*  
<http://nhclibrary.nhmccd.edu/library/instruction/web.html> (North Harris College Library)

Sexty, S. (2000). *Ideas for library/information assignments*  
[http://www.library.mun.ca/qeii/instruction/assignment\\_ideas.php](http://www.library.mun.ca/qeii/instruction/assignment_ideas.php) University of Newfoundland Libraries