I-Search Paper

Revisions: Shawn Apostel, Instructor

In this assignment we will be learning about research techniques while working on our writing skills. To write an I-Search paper, you first need to figure out what you want to know more about. Then, you will conduct research to find out more about your topic. You may use interviews, magazines, brochures, books, internet sites - any source that tells you something about your topic. As you conduct your research, keep a journal; write what you are doing and who you are talking to. Include details about your conversations and thoughts along the way. All this information will help you as you begin to write your drafts, which we will be discussing and polishing in class. Your finished I-Search research paper should read like a personal letter to the class (feel free to use the word “I” and contractions; use everyday words). You may be asked to read this paper during class, so please keep it interesting.

To successfully complete the assignment, you must complete the following:

- Find a topic that you would like to know more about – tell us why you picked this topic
- Share in the writing process* as required for class discussion and homework
- Write about your research in a way that will engage us
- Make sure your final paper is at least 1,000 words long, although it may be longer, depending on the extent of your research
- Take into account proper grammar, spelling, and consistent formatting issues
- List out your sources at the end (you should use at least three), so that we can easily find what you found on the subject. You should also tell us why you think your source is credible, or questionable, as you discuss your source in the paper

As we discussed in class, your project should also work as a pitch for a more thorough group research project. So as you present your pitch to the class, make sure you answer the following questions:

- What questions came up during your I-Search paper that could use a closer look?
- How could group work be divided? (We may have up to five people in a group.)
- How do you propose that the final research project be presented to the class? (i.e., presentation, PPT and speech, skit, short audio or video documentary, flash film …)

Your I-Search paper and pitch is due in class on Friday, February 25 – Wednesday, March 2.

* Remember to save all rough drafts and correspondence regarding this assignment and all assignments in this class.