Research Methodology

Keeping it Organized

Abstract - Recap

- MLA Format w/header.
- No more than 1 full page, and no less than ¾ of a page.
- Informal writing (personal pronouns are permitted).
- Abstract should explicitly explain the claim that you are making, and where you intend to "go" with your research.
- Once you have produced your abstract, turn it in via link on my website.
  - https://tjfrost.weebly.com/research-paper.html
  - Must be a PDF
  - Link will be available by end of day today…

Remember

The key to success will be the "thing" you are trying to argue/prove.

It's okay if this evolves over the course of your research. In fact, it should evolve. It's a living and breathing concept, meant to be nurtured and grow up.

Sources & Data Management

- Use OneDrive/Google Drive to keep a document with all of your citations.
  - They don't necessarily have to be in proper format yet, but somewhere where you can keep all of your sources in one place.
- SAVE copies of all of your source material. (As shown on Thursday in class w/ Mr. Haake).
  - Even if you are unsure if you will use information from the source, sometimes you might find something that is interesting and you may want to refer to later on – save it!
- Keep track of your business.

Notecards

As you are researching – always remember what it is you are trying to argue/prove. Your sources and information should always support your argument.

- Use ONE notecard per piece of information you plan to incorporate into your paper.
    - On one side of the notecard – write/paraphrase the information you will use.
    - On the other side – write a reference to the source that it was pulled from. Make a note on this side where you may intend to include this information to support your argument/point.
- Tip: On each card – create a code system to keep your information organized.

Notecard Example

120,000 lifetime members across 54 countries.

Background

Professional Disc Golfers Association

** Shows the number of individuals invested in the sport of Frisbee Golf, worldwide.

18,000 active members & 8,000 apprentices in the PGA.

Background

Professional Golf Association

jobfinder.pga.org

** Used to compare the PGA to the PGDA and show wider notoriety of disc golfers.

Notecards

- Why use notecards?
  - Helps you to consolidate your information.
  - Helps you to keep track of your facts/data in a visual way.
  - As you are planning your paper – in the next stages – they are easily manipulated and moved around to better organize your writing.
  - Helps you to visualize weaknesses in your arguments.
  - Color code to organize/group facts and data.

Next Steps

1. Finalize your topic – have a brief conversation with me about the direction you are taking.
2. Compile your general notes/ideas for your abstract. Start to think about sources.
3. Compose and turn in your abstract. – **Realistically this should be done by Tuesday/Wednesday.**
4. Start really defining/focusing your argument.
5. Setup and organize your source and data management.
6. Start the research process with sources & notecards.
7. Keep track of all of the sources you pull information from in one, central location.
8. Notecard Progress Check –**Approx. Friday 1/17**