



Introduction to Online Research
&
Computer Database Techniques
2012-2013



August 10, 2012

Contacts:

I. Course Instructor:

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II. Course Description: Students will learn how to research topics and academic subjects in a myriad of ways that can help them in the workplace and for their continuing educational opportunities. The course will teach techniques to students, so they can ask appropriate and timely questions, to create many cross-curricular projects from start to finish. While working and using computer skills that will further a new intellectual capacity for today's kids in a 21st Century technology-based culture. More and more studies show that college freshmen are not able to use libraries and resources to create and complete a research project in college. Further, the course will enable students to work with other school teaching staff and become a mini-scholar on topics they choose, even if undergraduate work is not their goal right now. This elective course seeks to develop computer techniques, work skills, and critical thinking talents for students that will help them and their families for decades to come. The whole class will try to create life long learners that can research, access new and pertinent information in an information age, and produce many presentable products from their fresh skills in a concise and innovative way for the world to understand a new informed perspective.

III. Course Goals:

1. Students will learn the necessary skills to conduct academic research; search data-bases, collect sources, select the best source and compile a bibliography.
2. Student will distinguish between various types of sources via search engines, scholarly research databases, and other resources.
3. Students will be able to evaluate sources and arguments to establish their own interpretation via a thesis statement.
4. Student will learn ethical guidelines in using technology to conduct academic research and create a products from class activities that will help create a skill set for higher education and the workplace.

IV. Introduction To Online Research And Databases

Public libraries provide many databases to do research. Find old Los Angeles times articles from the 1800's, look up business statistics and find health information, etc...North Park is further working on making a virtual Computer library for the course and the whole student body on campus.

Online databases are collections of periodicals, journals, magazine and newspaper articles, as well as other reference sources like encyclopedias, dictionaries and directories. Databases contain the same information that you can find in library reference books, but make it available electronically over the internet.

This research class will explore Wikipedia, and how it can be successfully used to begin research. We will discuss Wikipedia as a whole – its contents, why it is considered an unreliable source, how it can be used as a springboard for research topics, and also how to identify credible sources for research papers.

Libraries Purchase Subscriptions To These Resources.

Databases

North Park Virtual Library [to be created and purchased]

Webcrawler

Scholar Google

Los Angeles Public Library:

<http://www.lapl.org/>

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/intro>

EXAMPLE:

<http://www.paly.net/library/databases.php>

ELTON B. STEPHENS COMPANY

(EBSCO)

Education Resources Information Center

(ERIC)

Journal Storage

JSTOR

for a list of academic databases and search engines visit:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/list_of_academic_databases_and_search_engines

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<http://elibrary.bigchalk.com>

username: 90-1602; off campus username: 90-1602REMOTE; password: bigchalk

V. Library Databases:

Art, Music & Recreation	Education Magazines	Information Magazines	Philosophy & Religion	Social Sciences & Government
Biography	General Information	General Statistics	Photos & Indexes	Specialized Student Sources
Business	Health	Geography & Genealogy	Regional History Resources	U.S. Government Documents
Company	History	Literature	Science & Technical	

Some popular information available through our online databases includes:

Research A Subjects

This handout of topics created by Ms. Perez and Mr.C.

Abstinence programs

Do they work?

Advertising

Should certain kinds of ads be banned in the interest of health/morality/annoyance – alcohol, cigarettes, prescription meds, etc...?

Africa

Why so many wars? What's the solution?

Airplane accidents

Who is responsible? Should families of victims be entitled to compensation?

Airport security

Should the government use invasive pat-downs and body scans to ensure passenger safety or are there better methods?

Al Qaida

Has U.S. policy actually spread terrorism rather than contain it? Will it get better or worse? Why and how?

Alcohol

Should the U.S. lower the drinking age to 18?

Animal rights

Should it be illegal to use animals for sports and entertainment?

Arming pilots

Good idea?

Art

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A few years ago, an artist was criticized for depicting the Virgin Mary with elephant dung. When is art not really art?

Athletes in high schools

Should shoe companies be able to give away free shoes and equipment to high school athletes?

Beauty contests

Do they serve any purpose in society?

Bridges, roads, waterways

Why the government gets a bad report card on America's infrastructure.

Bullying laws

Should the state or federal government put laws into place to prevent bullying?

Cell phones

How have they changed us socially?

Censorship

Should parents censor textbooks and other literature for children in schools?

Cheap labor

U.S. companies that move factories to undeveloped nations barely pay employees enough to live on. Is it unethical to pay cheap wages or are companies doing those workers a favor?

Child soldiers

Why and how children are used for war

Church arson

Hate crime?

Civil disobedience

Is breaking the law for a cause justifiable?

Civil unions

If civil couples have the same rights/privileges of married people, why get married?

Climate change

Is global warming a hoax? Is it being exaggerated?

Coal

Should the use of coal be subjected to stricter environmental regulations than other fuels?

College athletics

Should college athletes be paid?

Cyber crime

What are the latest ways to steal identity and money?

Divorce

Should we reform laws to make it harder to get a divorce?

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DDT

Should DDT be re-approved for use in the wake of recent bedbug outbreaks across the country?

Electronic information preservation

Does the Information Age mean we are losing important historical information?

Exams

Exams often do little more than measure a person's ability to take exams. Should exams be outlawed in favor of another form of assessment?

Fast food

Are we taking it too far by blaming fast food restaurants for obesity? When is it individual responsibility and when is it appropriate to place blame?

Felons and voting

Should convicted felons have the right to vote?

Feminism

Is feminism still relevant? How do young women view feminism?

Fitness programs

Should companies allow employees to exercise on work time?

Flag

Should children be required to say the Pledge of Allegiance in schools?

Food

Steroids. Antibiotics. Sprays. Are food manufacturers killing us?

Gap year

Should teens in the U.S. adopt the British custom of taking a "gap year" between high school and college?

Gay marriage

Should there be a constitutional amendment that allows gays and lesbians to legally marry?

Generations

How 4 different generations in the workplace can work together.

Grades

In some European schools, fewer than 10% of students get As. Is there grade inflation in the U.S.? Why so many As for Americans?

Health care crisis

Most developed nations have universal health coverage. Why doesn't the U.S., the wealthiest nation, have it?

Holocaust

Should denial of the Holocaust be illegal?

Homeland Security

Are we safer since the creation of this department?

Infidelity

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In some states, it is illegal to cheat on a spouse. Should we prosecute cheaters? Is a law that's not enforced really a law?

Immigration

Should illegal immigrants be made legal citizens?

Internet and children

Are children smarter (or more socialized) because of the Internet?

Internet regulation:

Should the federal government be allowed to regulate information on the internet?

Intersexuals

What, if anything, should be done medically and socially?

Iraq War

Is America winning or losing the War? What is the measurement of success? Have the benefits outweighed the costs?

Iraq War Vets

Are they being cheated on medical benefits?

Journalism

Should newspaper reporters be required to reveal their sources?

Juvenile offenders

Should juvenile offenders be tried and punished as adults?

Kyoto Protocol

Should the U.S. join Kyoto to curb greenhouse gases?

Lead poisoning

Should the U.S. stop importing Chinese-manufactured toys?

Literacy

Are Americans "literate?"

Malpractice

How can we balance the need to lower the cost of malpractice insurance with the fact that physician malpractice is one of the leading causes of death?

Marijuana legalization:

Should the federal government legalize the use of marijuana?

Media

Does the media, both print and broadcast, report fairly? Does it ever cross the line between reporting the news and creating the news?

Military

Should the U.S. have mandatory military conscriptions? For whom?

Mining

What safety measures made the recent Canadian mining accident a non-casualty event, while recent U.S. mining accidents have been fatal?

Models

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Should there be a minimum weight limit?

Moms

Should stay-at-home moms get a salary from the government?

Muslim Americans

What is life for them like in the U.S. after September 11, 2001?

No Child Left Behind Act

Is it working?

Noise pollution

How much is too much noise? What, if anything, should we do to curb it?

Nonverbal communication

How do men and women communicate differently using body language, and why does it matter (in dating, the workplace, social circles)?

Obesity and weight loss

Should thin people have to pay Medicare and other health costs for the health problems of obese people? Should obese people have higher premiums?

Oil companies

Do oil companies make big bucks while the rest of us pay over \$3 a gallon?

Organ sale

Should we legalize the sale of human organs?

Overpopulation

What would happen globally if the demand for natural resources is greater than the supply?

Paparazzi

What, if any, limitations should be applied to the paparazzi?

Parents

Should parents be held responsible when their children break laws?

Pornography

Parental filters on the Internet. Does censorship actually increase curiosity and use of pornography?

Prescription medicines

Should there be a national database to track controlled substances (i.e., oxycodone) or should it be a state issue?

Privacy

Should the government be allowed to wire tap without permission?

Privacy

What medical information should be confidential? Who, if anybody, should have access to medical records?

Public figures

Does the public have a right to know about a public figure's private life?

Racial bias in media

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Does news coverage favor whites?

Religion

Is there one true religion?

Road rage

Why do normally patient people become impatient behind the wheel?

School lunches

Should government impose restrictions on what kinds of foods can be served in school cafeterias?

School uniforms

Pros and cons of school uniforms.

Sex offenders

Once they leave prison, are laws about where they may live and be employed unfair?

Single sex schools

Do children learn better in boys-only and girls-only schools?

Smoking bans

Should the federal government pass a nationwide indoor smoking ban?

Social anxiety

How is it different from shyness? And, are we a society of anxiety?

Spanking

Should it be outlawed?

Sports parents

What are the effects on children whose parents push them in sports?

Statutory rape

Recently, a 17-year-old boy was sentenced to 10 years in prison for having consensual oral sex with a 15-year-old girl. Are statutory rape laws patronizing to girls and discriminatory to boys?

Steroids

Should they be legalized?

Suicide bombers

What kind of person becomes a suicide bomber?

Terrorism

Can terrorism ever be justified?

Title IX

Has it helped women's sports? Has it harmed men's sports?

Tough love

Does parental "tough love" really work?

Toys

Do certain children's toys create social or emotional problems?

Vaccines

Should parents avoid vaccinating their children?

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Wage gap

Women still earn only 75 cents for every \$1 a man earns. Explain why.

Wages

There's a minimum wage, but should there also be a maximum wage/ salary a person can earn?

Wind energy

Is wind energy really that cheap? Is it effective? Is it practical?

Women in the clergy

Should women be priests, pastors, ministers, and rabbis?

Workaholics

Do Americans work too hard? Does working more actually reduce productivity? Is a 40-hour work week too much? Should there be a mandatory cap on the number of hours a person can work? Should there be changes in employment laws to give Americans more relaxation time?

Working mothers

What differences, if any, are there in children who are raised by stay-at-home moms and working moms? Does society today still discriminate against working mothers who wish to have flexible work schedules?

VI. Course Programs And Skills Set

	My Big Campus	http://www.mybigcampus.com
	Turnitin.Com	http://turnitin.com/static/index.php
	Powerpoint	Student products
	Word	Student products
	Access	Student products optional
	Excel	Student products
	Adobe	Student products optional

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iWeb

Student products
optional

VII. Course Research Skills Set.

1. Become Familiar With Libraries Resources & Tools.
2. Determining Research Needs
3. Defining A Research Topic
4. Search Methods And Tools
5. Evaluating Different Types Of Resources
6. Citing Information
7. Avoiding plagiarism, understand plagiarism, how it is defined and copying something in the academic world is in bad form.
8. Computer History, Structure, & Vocabulary
9. Student created products placed on Blackboard & group communications.
10. Producing final products to clearly convey the research topic.

VIII. Daily Schedule:

Task	Computing time	Wrap-up
Mini-lesson-Research Inquiry	Perform Skill for Day	Send to My Big Campus
Group Brainstorm	Flash Drive Check	Literature Circle

Assignments

Students will choose three basic programs and create 6 projects over the 60 days in the course for 5 credits. Some assignments are by choice, others will be mandatory for course completion. Students will have 6 projects for an A, 5=B, 4=C, 3=D, 2=D-, 1=F, and each day there will also be daily assignments that will also need to be completed. Rubrics will be used to grade each project. See handout on second to last page next to parent signature sheet.

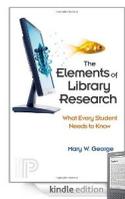
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Possible Point Totals for the School Year Grade				
900-1000	A	6 projects	with classwork	90% above
800-899	B	5 projects	with classwork	80% above
700-799	C	4 projects	with classwork	70% above
600-699	D	3 projects	with classwork	60% above

Grade Scale and Weights are posted in classroom and illuminate
Each semester—60 hr course—could equal these point totals to complete 5 credits.
Total Points for Assignments may vary between 5-15

IX. Texts and Resources

Textbook: *The Elements of Library Research :What Every Student Needs to Know:*
Mary W. George



<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8711.html>

Supplemental Textbooks:

Contemporary Political Ideologies: A Comparative Analysis: Lyman T. Sargent
Methods for Political Inquiry: The Discipline, Philosophy and Analysis of Politics: Stella Theodoulou & Rory O'Brien

VIII. Class Rules & Classroom Management Plan:

1. The Interclass PC Lab Control Software TBA
 - a. Assigned Computer Log Book daily.
 - b. Email completed computer work and projects.
2. BPUSD Computer Guidelines
3. Mr. Culbertson's Discipline Guidelines
 - At all times people will respect each other.
 - Tardies are marked when not in your chosen seat by the starting bell, talking during roll, and being disruptive inappropriately at the beginning of class.
 - Participation points are given each day when present, respectful, and working. Zero when absent. Come prepared to class with pencils, paper, assigned reading, homework, etc.

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- Caught cheating an F grade will be given for that assignment. Caught multiple times may be given an F final grade.
- When class is missed it is the student's responsibility to meet and approach Culbertson or a fellow student to know what was missed and the request for work will be fulfilled.
- Assigned work must be proficient to receive a grade towards the course.
- If not working on the assignments then the units for completion of the course will not be awarded.
- All School rules must be followed at all times.
- All school rules & Education Codes must be followed
- Card system will be followed or larger consequences may occur

Discipline cards

These cards is for due process,  which is good for students. We could call them warning cards and they work! They are placed directly on the table and students are told of how they work. When behavior is not appropriate we use these cards. Then students meet and talk with me on why. They must tell me why they got one for the day. Records are kept on these cards.

➤ Card Protocol

1st blue card- meet discuss behavior [if ever a card is not working a seat is changed]

2nd blue card-meet discuss behavior again and what can happen that is worse [if ever a card is not working a seat is changed, and the possible lost privilege of choice of seat on chart]

3rd blue card- contact home with letter taken by student-meet explain to parents what is happening.

- NEXT: Brings back parent signed letter, commented , we then re-start[back to Card 1] Letter does not come back a call home is next. IF student does not bring back the sheet after the call, a 2nd phone call home, or email again will be sent and they are now in defiance of authority and will be moving towards 4-6. get to six and then we are in the suspensions area. Also detention could be assigned through 4-6, with parents/gaurdian told when and where. 6th card means another letter home/ request sst/referral, etc. Any infraction can jump the 1-6 when the Education Codes warrants a stronger consequence, ex. fighting, hazing, gang regalia and gang hand signs, and violent threats.

IX. Standards



1. Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students:
 - a. apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
 - b. create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
 - c. use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues.
 - d. identify trends and forecast possibilities.

2. Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Students:
 - a. interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.
 - b. communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.
 - c. develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures.
 - d. contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems.

3. Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information. Students:
 - a. plan strategies to guide inquiry.
 - b. locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media.
 - c. evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks.
 - d. process data and report results.

4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources. Students:
 - a. identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation.
 - b. plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project.

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- c. collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions.
 - d. use multiple processes and diverse perspectives to explore alternative solutions.
5. Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students:
- a. advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
 - b. exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.
 - c. demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
 - d. exhibit leadership for digital citizenship.
6. Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students:
- a. understand and use technology systems.
 - b. select and use applications effectively and productively.
 - c. troubleshoot systems and applications.
 - d. transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies.



IX. Standards

LANGUAGE ARTS?? HERE

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6 projects last year was the goal. Many students were not completely able to finish the entire class curriculum. So in order for us be more productive we will try and create a **structure** for all of us. We hope you are able to gather more skills. So we will be **creating projects** from web-based sites. I think they will work well with My Big Campus. These will be the number and type of project. It looks that we will be able to create more on-line projects at BPUSD. Let us show the world what you can do!



6 web-based research projects:

1. **PowerPoint**—10-C, 15-B, 20-A.

Thesis statement, works cited, one book, one article, web links. The power points need to have more content that shows what you have learned about your topic. I think we can do better.

2. **Museum box**—Rubric to be decided. This site is interesting and free.

3. **NARA Poster or movie**—Rubric to be decided. From our National Archive, where the US keeps many of country's historical records, we can create great historical posters.

4. **Book review** of your choice that is non-fiction or **Essay** topic on a political issue, events, or cultural studies. **Story Corps** research and **family interview project** and picture collection. Also a genealogy fan can also be used for these projects. A rubric will be made soon for this assignment.

5. **Wordle 3** Primary sources that you choose and make a cloud. Or you can create a essay book review from **Tagxedo**. Or make small journals on either site. A rubric will be made soon for this assignment. Please have a works cited list. A brief explanation page would be good for all graphic creations.

6. **Research paper**. This will be 6 to 10 pages. In order to get an A you need to get this project done. MLA format.

⚡ Please start by logging in and making bookmarks for these sites you need to work on. Most students have already finished a PPT, so everyone needs to get started. In order to start a new project every 10-12 days, please ask questions for help and assistance from Mr.Culbertson and Ms. Perez. I think we can do this and let us see if the computers are working well enough to accomplish this. Good luck, Research Course students. 🌍 😊

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Memorandum of Understanding

I have read these guidelines and understand that my child must follow these rules in class and on the NORTH PARK High School campus. Also I will help to ensure that I will instruct my child to follow these rules, course description, memorandum of understanding, and that if he/she does not follow the rules they may be subject to possibly being dropped from the course.

	Parent/Guardian's Signature		Print First & Last name
	Date		E-mail
	Home Phone		Work Phone

I have read these guidelines with my parent/guardian and understand that as a student I am responsible for my actions according to this class document on the NORTH PARK HS campus. I shall follow these rules and memorandum of understanding, and that if I do not follow the rules I know that I may be subject to possibly being dropped from the course.

	Student's Signature		Print First & Last name
	Date		E-mail
	Home Phone		Work Phone

Any comments or feedback please write below and on the back:

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