

**All materials handed in for grade MUST fill out and include the following Information Header at the start of the document or on a separate cover sheet.**

Your name  
Your student ID #  
Course Name  
Instructor's Name  
Assignment Title  
Your Subtitle (where applicable)  
Date Submitted

Due Date
----------

See the *Course Outline* or the *Readings and Assignment Schedule* for due dates.

Objectives
------------

- IDENTIFY an area of interest;
- IDENTIFY and ARTICULATE a research question;
- SYNTHESIZE and EVALUATE relevant sources;
- ANALYSE the relationship between language and its social usage;
- ARTICULATE and SUPPORT a thesis;
- DESIGN an appropriate form of presentation;
- PRACTICE appropriate scholarly discourse, formatting and citation.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AND EXAMPLES:

Tip Sheet: Asking Research Questions:

<http://blogs.unbc.ca/engl381/files/2010/01/Asking-Research-Questions.pdf>

See the Links/Docs page of the blog for more examples.

Instructions
--------------

This project provides you with the opportunity to shape personal interest into a robust research project. You have broad scope in terms of topic and mode of presentation but there are some key elements and criteria that must be met:

1. CONSULTATION: Each student must submit a Curiosity Project Proposal before the end of WEEK 6. **Any projects completed without submission of the proposal will not be graded.** Your proposal must include the following:
  - A brief description of the proposed project;
  - A working research question;
  - A statement indicating how the project relates to the focus and concerns of the course;

- A preliminary list of sources or types of materials you will be including.
2. **SCHOLARSHIP:** This is a **RESEARCH PROJECT**. Therefore, you must include in your project appropriate and relevant sources. Depending on the nature of the project, sources may include popular culture, news media, personal anecdote etc., but all projects must include substantial interaction with **scholarly sources** in areas relevant to the focus of the course. **All sources must be documented**, including personal interviews, materials from image searches etc. Consult with the Librarian. You will submit a preliminary bibliography for grade (see the Assignment Description for the Annotated Bibliography);
  3. **PRESENTATION:** The type of project you choose will determine the best format for presentation. However, you must provide **the equivalent of 2000 words of analysis** and discussion. You will also be presenting your project to the class in **WEEK 12**, so you will need to consider a format that will be accessible in a gallery-type environment.

Some Suggested Topics to get you thinking
---

- Typography, orthography, graffiti;
- Build a language and a cultural history;
- A Day in the Life of a Language: personal socio-ethnography;
- Awake journaling (observations about language in the wild);
- Media analysis: spin, usage;
- Dictionaries and lexicography: E.g. make your own dictionary;
- Concept-mapping: semantic fields, etymology, language family etc.;
- Book-making, illumination, history of the book;
- Language and empire;
- Language and civil rights;
- Translation;
- Language loss and recovery;
- Expansion or “deep dive” on any of the topics covered in class.

<b>FORMAT: YOU WILL HAND IN FOR GRADE</b>
---

1. The information template at the head of this document.
2. All written material submitted for grading must be typed, Times New Roman 12-pt font, **DOUBLE SPACED**;
3. **CURIOSITY PROJECT PROPOSAL:**
  - **by the end of WEEK 6: HARDCOPY;**
  - **On the day of your presentation**, with your project, you will submit a copy of the proposal with my approval signature;

4. CURIOSITY PROJECT in some form that can be transported to my office for assessment.
  - Electronic submissions (websites, blogs, music etc.) may be sent in an easily-accessed format by email. Use the following template for both the email subject line and the file: ENGL 390 w2020 CURIOSITY PROJECT by YOUR NAME;
  - Traditional text formats (essays etc.) must be submitted in **HARDCOPY**.
5. WORKS CITED in proper MLA format.

#### Assessment

- Clear, analytical research question of the appropriate scope for the assignment;
- Clear, analytical thesis with evident relevance to the study of language in its cultural context;
- Appropriate and effective presentation format;
- Appropriate use of research;
- Coherent synthesis and articulation of key elements, terms etc.;
- Appropriate illustration of concepts;
- Evidence of application of relevant conceptual tools, definitions etc. to the topic;
- Concision, clear language, paragraph and sentence structure;
- Tidiness, care for presentation;
- Accurate MLA citation and documentation;
- Evidence of deep engagement and intellectual curiosity.