

# sustained inquiry literature review

“Doubt is the incentive to truth and inquiry leads the way.” – Hosea Ballou

## Timeline: Major Deadlines

1/30 (M) or 2/1 (W)	Proposed inquiry - due at individual conferences
2/8 (W), 2/13 (M)	Sustained inquiry log check-in
2/27 (M), 3/6 (M)	
2/15 (W)	Half Draft Due (printed copy to class, also saved in Google Drive)
3/1 (W)	3/4 Draft Due (printed copy to class)
3/8 (W)	Final Draft Due, with invention portfolio (saved to Google Drive)
	Primary Research Proposal Due (saved to Google Drive)

## Assignment Description

Research as “inquiry” refers to an understanding that research is iterative and depends upon asking increasingly complex questions whose answers develop new questions or lines of inquiry in any field. The act of inquiry begs the researcher to engage in creative and critical thinking. It demands a hunger for the quest. It is for this reason that I have encouraged you to spend time reflecting on what matters to you – what you genuinely wish to gain a better understanding of about this thing – before we bothered with the details of this particular assignment.

## Sustained Inquiry Log

You will dedicate a file in your Google folder to this small project (named “your last name\_ sustained inquiry log”). Each entry will begin with at least 3 inquiries, satisfied with annotated text from one of your sources and end with 1 open-ended inquiry (to be answered, or not, in your next research session). There should be **4 total inquiries per due date**. These “notes to self” will need to be more detailed than in our last inquiry log. They will become the building blocks of your paper.

You may also use this as a collection space for other notes and citations pertaining to your project. Expect this to be your “folder of chaos.” You may find yourself shuffling things around a bit, adding more ideas and connections as the weeks go by. This is as it should be. Just do not delete any ideas or notes. Push them to the bottom of the log, perhaps, but keep them in your log. You never know when a particular thought might become your most valuable morsel!

*(See related assignment sheet for example)*

## Literature Review

The purpose of a literature review is to see what is already being said about your interest. You will uncover the findings of others in ways that may or may not answer your questions. Engage in these texts in a way that leads you to more questions.

Your final draft will be 5-7 typed, double-spaced pages. To support your sustained research inquiry, you will need to include a minimum of **five** sources:

- At least two scholarly sources
- At least three popular sources

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## Stuck in your quest? Questions to consider

The best and easiest way to identify topics and research questions that you want to pursue is to begin by asking open-ended questions.

- What do you find interesting?
- What do you find upsetting?
- What do you wish you were more informed about?
- What do you wish others were more informed about?

After thinking about these questions, you'll need to narrow your inquiry even further. Asking the following questions might be helpful in that process.

- What do others or I need to know about this topic?
- What about this topic is controversial and worth exploring?
- Does this topic need a solution? How might I discover possible solutions for it?
- What part of this topic could be researched in an effort to help those who are affected by the topic?

## Conventional Formatting

Your research account will be drafted in Google Docs, in at least 3 iterations (Half Draft,  $\frac{3}{4}$  Draft, Final Draft). Projects should be typed, double-spaced, with 12-pt Times New Roman font. MLA style and formatting conventions should be followed. For additional information about using MLA, please refer to chapter 49 of *Writing in Action*.

## Grading Criteria

1. Exploratory Argumentation: Your literature review should explore the different arguments being made within and around your selected and approved topic. That means you must address counter arguments, marginalized arguments, etc. if they are present. It's possible that your conclusion will recommend one of the arguments as more effective than the others, but your paper should use exploratory argumentation, not argumentation with the purpose of "winning" or "persuading."
2. Specificity: Your research account should be specific. Not only should you include specific evidence from sources, you should specifically discuss why and how those sources are relevant to your overarching research efforts. Remember, sources do not prove your arguments; *you* must do that by discussing source material in relation to your argument.
3. Development: Your project should feel complete. Your research account should include a minimum of five sources, and should thoughtfully and thoroughly discuss the varying arguments connected to your selected research topic. Your project should also develop between drafts, and your research log should thoroughly document notes from possible sources—remember that you'll need more than five sources in your final research log.
4. Cohesion: Your research account should read as a cohesive text. Your literature review should be built logically, and your transitions between paragraphs and sentences should smoothly connect your ideas.

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5. Correctness: Your project should follow MLA guidelines for both formatting and citation standards. Additionally, your research account should be proofread for spelling, capitalization, and syntax errors. Reading aloud can help you catch these errors, as well as repeated phrases and unfinished sentences.

## Rubric

	NA	NI	AC	EX
Exploratory Argumentation				
Specificity				
Development				
Cohesion				
Correctness				
<b>Invention Portfolio</b>				
<b>Participation</b>				

EX: Exceptional. The writer has applied the criterion with distinction.

AC: Acceptable/Meets Expectations. The writer has applied the criterion to an acceptable degree.

NI: Needs improvement. The writer has minimally applied the criterion in the project.

NA: Narrowly applied or not applied. The writer has not applied the criterion in the project.

## Grading

Most broadly, the project will be graded as follows:

Research account: 70 pts.  
Invention portfolio: 20 pts.  
Participation: 10 pts.

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**Total:** 100 pts.