**Writing Project #3: Collaborative Research Paper on Education**

In Unit III we will be exploring the intellectual state of the American Academic University through our critical readings of Richard Hofstadter, Mark Edmundson, and Gerald Graff. With two to three other group members, you will choose a topic on a current issue concerning education, and you will write a formal persuasive academic research paper using critical and scholarly sources. This persuasive research paper will not only explore the issue, but it will also take a clear stance on the issue at hand. This project has four major parts as outlined below:

**Annotated Bibliography (25%):** The purpose of the annotated bibliography is to help each group member decide what articles are relevant to their paper without having to read all of them. After you complete and turn in your annotated bibliography, you will be able to read your group members’ short-write ups and decide which sources will be useful for your group’s paper. These sources will be more difficult (and probably more time-consuming) than what you’ve done so far, so working collaboratively to sort through the scholarship will be more productive than reading 15 sources all yourself. Writing an annotated bibliography will help you give other access to a particular subject as well as the language and discourse of a particular subject. You will be graded only on your own annotations. You are not responsible for the work done or not done by your group members, and you will be graded independently rather than being given one group grade.

**Collaborative Paper (25%):** However, I will grade your formal research paper as a collaborative project. That is, your paper will be written collaboratively. Once you annotate 5 sources on your own, you will collaborate to write a 7-8 page paper on a topic in education on which you all agree. This paper will make use of 5 sources selected from the individual annotated bibliographies.

**Group Presentation (25%):** In addition to writing the collaborative paper, your group will present a 10-minute presentation on your paper topic to the rest of the class. This presentation should introduce and discuss the problem, as well as present a clear explanation of the source material. The presentation should make use of at least one visual—handouts, PowerPoint, poster, video clip etc—this will be discussed more at in-class group meetings.

**Group Member Evaluations (25%):** Finally, your other group members will also grade you on your preparedness, teamwork, and contributions to the project. These evaluations will be done anonymously in class.

**Purposes**

* To practice collecting, using, and implementing scholarly source material.
* To Analyze and synthesize multiple perspectives
* To explore and evaluate the current state of American education
* To improve real world application of collaboration and teamwork

**Requirements**

* Collaborative Paper 7-8 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins w/works cited
* Write a 5-source individual annotated bibliography
* Complete Peer Evaluations
* Participate in a 10-minute team presentation on your paper

**Schedule**

* 30 March Team Topic Proposal Due
* 10 April Annotated Bibliography Due
* 20 & 22 April In-class Presentations
* 24 April Writing Project #3 Due & Group Member Evaluations

\*See the syllabus itinerary for specific group meeting dates

*Grading Criteria*

Collaborative Paper

1. Does the paper present a clear overview of the issue? Does the paper take a clear stance on the chosen issue?
2. Does the paper make appropriate use of source material? Does the paper present an analysis and synthesis of the source material?
3. Is the essay well organized? Are the main points easy to follow?
4. Does the essay present a well-developed introduction and conclusion? Does the introduction have a clear thesis statement and attention getter?
5. Does your paper meet the page length requirements (7-8 pages)? Does the paper properly use MLA formatting and contain a Works Cited page?
6. Have you carefully proofread your paper for grammar, spelling, and sentence structure?

**\*Additional grading criteria will be provided for the other individual components.**