**Social Entrepreneurship – Research Paper General Requirements**

After researching local, state, national, and international social entrepreneurs, select one to write a research paper about. Follow the guides in this handout for your paper.

* You must have at least ***2-3 full pages of text in the body*** of the paper ***but not more than seven (4) pages***.
* The Works Cited page will be numbered ***BUT will not be counted***as one of the minimum four (4) pages or the maximum seven (7) pages.
* ***Sources –*** You must ***cite at least four (4) sources.*** Two of your sources must come from a library database such as Ebsco Host or Gale. Go to Heritages home page, Click the Services link, Click the Media Center link, and then click the Research Resources link.

***Formatting***

* Paper must be typed in **Times New Roman or Cambria font,** **12 point**, and **double spaced**.
* Use appropriate MLA Style page numbering and heading. A good resource to use is <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>
* The ***point of view*** of your paper is the ***third person***. Words like: I, you, me, my, our, us, we, or your, ***should NOT be used*** in your paper ***UNLESS*** they are part of a quote.

***References***

**Where to find needed information:**

* Book – the title, author, publication city and publisher are usually on the title page. The copyright date is usually on the back of the title page.
* Encyclopedia – if there is an author of the article it will be on the first page of the article or at the end of the article. Some encyclopedia articles have no listed author. You also need the title of the article and encyclopedia and the most current copyright date of the encyclopedia, found on the back of the title page. For APA citations you need page number(s), publisher and place of publication.
* Newspaper and Magazine articles – you need the author and title of the article, date of the newspaper/magazine and page(s) the article appeared on. For MLA citations you need the city and state of publication for newspapers.
* Scholarly Journals – title of article and journal, author, date and pages of article, and volume and issue number are all needed. Most volume and issue numbers can be found on the title page of the journal.
* On-line encyclopedia – author and title of article, title, owner and subscriber of encyclopedia, date visited, and full Internet address is needed. On many on-line encyclopedias some of this information is provided at the end of the article.
* Web site – author and title of page, date page created or updated, sponsoring organization, date visited, and full Internet address are needed. Sometimes it can be difficult to find an author or date of last update.
* Power Library database – information needed varies from database to database, but generally you need the author, title and date of the article, title of magazine or book, volume and issue of journals and magazine, name, owner and subscriber of database, and date accessed.

***Writing a Working Thesis***

* Before writing a thesis, you must research (read) enough about the topic to know enough to form an opinion to write a thesis statement!
* A thesis is a sentence that explains the content of the paper. Basically you are telling the reader what you will be telling them in the paper. A thesis is NOT a statement that starts with “This paper will be about . . .”
* From skimming your sources you should be able to form some general ideas or opinions. Writing a thesis at this point will help guide you during your research and note taking. As you do more research, your thesis will evolve. Do not be afraid to revise your thesis as you find further information.

**Sample thesis statements:**

History - “Colonial writers such as Thomas Paine greatly influenced the political beginnings of the United States.”

English - “Joseph Heller’s character development enhances the plot structure of *Catch 22*.”

“The speaker’s use of allusion and metaphor presents a vivid description of spring.”

Psychology - “The psychological perception of the inherent evil in humanity can be compared in *Heart and Darkness* and *The Lord of the Flies*.”

Science - “The lifestyles of barn owls include hunting for insects and animals, building nests, and raising their young.”

If you are having trouble with your thesis statement, try incorporating one of the following words into it: important, caused, influenced, analyzed, created, crucial, origin, impacted, developed, etc...