

IRLS 504 Issue Paper

Purpose:

The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to explore an issue affecting the library and information professions. Additionally, the assignment is intended to give you experience in researching and writing a short graduate school paper.

Overview of Assignment:

A fully documented paper of 1,200-1,500 words on an issue relevant to library and information professions and services is required. The assignment has three parts:

- 1) Selecting and researching an issue.
- 2) Submission of a list of works consulted, an outline, and a final-draft version of your introduction, in the D2L drop box by 8:00 am on the sixth day of class.
- 3) Submission of the final paper as described below by 11:30 pm, one week after the last on-site day of class. (Check the course schedule and with your instructor for the exact date.)

Independent Study Period

Begin preparing during the independent reading period. As you read through the assignments, select a topic for the issue paper assignment. An issue is one that has some aspects of controversy or differing points of view; it is not a broad topic such as reference services or school librarianship. Take notes from the readings that relate to your topic; formulate questions about the issue; and read through references and bibliographies at the ends chapters or articles to find sources that you can use to learn more about the issue and perhaps to form the basis for the list of references you will cite in your own paper. A minimum of 6 sources is required and these must be from a variety of different types of sources. (See “Structure of the Paper” section for requirements.) At the end of the reading period, write a paragraph summarizing your progress in developing your issue.

On Site

Bring this material with you to refer to and build on throughout the Tucson residency. During one of the modules on identifying research literature, you will be able to find additional resources for your topic. Submit 1) a list of works consulted, 2) an outline, and 3) a final-draft version of the introduction, in the D2L drop box by 8:00 am on the sixth day of class.

Post-Course

Submit your paper via the D2L Drop Box by 11:30 pm, one week after the on-site course is completed.

Structure of the Paper

Introduction

- Usually one paragraph, with a thesis or topic statement
- Include information about importance or significance of the issue and the scope of the paper.

Body of the Paper

- Several paragraphs, each dealing with a major component of your topic
- Use of section headings is helpful for both the writer and reader
- Each paragraph should be on one topic, with a major topic sentence and supporting detail
- Blend description and evaluation or analysis throughout the paper
- Use sources effectively

Conclusion

- A concluding paragraph, bringing the paper to a close
- Evidence of the author's analytical thinking

List of Works Consulted (Including Works Cited)

- A list of works you have read for the paper, including those you have cited in the paper. A minimum of 6 sources is required, with at least one scholarly article, one book, and one web site. (Note that scholarly articles located on the Internet do not qualify as a web site.)
- Use the *APA: American Psychological Association Style Guide* for the format for references and list of sources. Other citation guides will not be accepted for this paper. A brief guide to the *APA* is located on the UA Library's web site at <http://www.library.arizona.edu/search/reference/citation-apa.html>

Criteria for Grading

1. Identification and appropriate use of authoritative and appropriate sources
2. Organization and coherent development of a thesis, purpose or argument
3. Effective, coherent, clear and mature expression of ideas
4. Use of standard English grammar, punctuation, and spelling
5. Freedom from proof-reading errors
6. Consistent use of citation style for both in-text references and lists of sources