

Assignment 1: January 15, 2008

This assignment is due in class next Tuesday.

1. Read *Craft of Research* Chapters 1, 3, and 4 (pp. 9-16 and 35-71)
2. Meet with your advisor, and ask him/her for a research article that they have published recently that is significant to him/her. Using the principles discussed in *Craft of Research*, write out the following for this article:

1. Topic: Dr. ___ studied ___
2. Question: Because he/she wanted to ___
3. Significance: In order to ___
4. Practical application: So that ___

Don't worry about the methods or results, or whether you agree or disagree, at this moment – we'll talk about these issues later. The main goal of this assignment is to understand the foundations of why the author approached the topic he/she did. Further, be concise – each of the blanks above should be filled with one sentence and no more. (Note that if this is a theoretical paper, you may have difficulty with #4, but the first three should be clear.)

Note: If you are still uncertain of your advisor or cannot contact him/her, please see me.

3. Take a first attempt at filling in the above for a project that you're interested in researching. I know some of you are further along than others, and so some of you may get stuck at #1 or #2. Don't worry if you think it's too broad or too narrow; this is part of what we'll discuss next week in class.