

## Beyond Google: Education in the United States

This assignment is to craft a research question about some aspect or aspects of education in the United States, and then investigate that question in a 6-8 page research paper. You may choose to consider education as a whole, or you may choose to consider mathematics education. (But you may not focus on another discipline as the topic of your research.) You may choose to consider K-12 education or higher education, but not both. This process will begin in small groups during class, and will continue with a special session moderated by one of the librarians, but each of you will write his/her own paper and make his/her own presentation.

Deadlines:

On **Wednesday of Week 4**, by the end of class, you will submit to me a research question along with several more detailed questions related to the topic which you hope to address.

On **Friday (or Saturday) of Week 4**, after class, you will submit your written response to some questions the librarians have for you using the following link

<https://libguides.kzoo.edu/libassign>

These questions center on what your research question is, how you are finding sources, and how you decide a source is credible.

On **Monday of Week 5**, a librarian will join us for our class. Bring your laptop to class.

On **Monday of Week 6**, you will turn in an outline and at least two pages of your paper. You will meet with me for an individual conference about your paper on **Tuesday or Wednesday** of that week.

Your final paper is due on **Friday of Week 7**. You will be giving a short presentation on this work to the class on **Friday of Week 7 or Monday of Week 8**.

## Guidelines for Papers

For this paper, be sure to use citations from at least 3 different sources. Your paper should have at least 8 relevant sources (not including a dictionary or any of our textbooks), at least 6 of which should be scholarly (ie, from a peer-reviewed source like a mathematics education journal). They should all be credible, and Wikipedia should NOT be used as a source. Note that not everything that appears in your bibliography must be cited directly in your paper; that's okay. Often a source provides important context for your understanding and subsequent ideas, but is not directly linked to the finished work. It should be still acknowledged.

Be sure the theme of your paper is clear, and that your paragraphs provide support for that theme/position. Be sure that the topic of each paragraph is clear and that your paragraphs flow together. Be sure your paper is mechanically correct.

Papers should be double-spaced, using calibri 12 font, and standard 1-inch margins, and with 23 lines per page. They should have one line of heading, with the title of the essay aligned on the left, and your name aligned on the right. Notice, your paper should have only one line of heading. For citations and bibliographies throughout the term, MLA style should be used.

Be conscious to avoid plagiarism. Check out

<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/plagiarism/> and

<https://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>

to find some helpful information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarizing.