EN 121: Principles of Writing - Library Sessions

Introduction

My name is Luke Beatty, and I’m the Outreach Librarian here at Illinois College. In conjunction with your regular Professor, Lisa Udel, I'll be teaching five sessions of your English 121: Principles of Writing class. Our itinerary is as follows:

Wednesday, September 10th / Schewe 210: Introduction & Topic Selection

We'll do a brief Library orientation, followed by some strategies for picking a topic. Topic selection is foundational to your research, but oftentimes gets overlooked because... well, just because. A good topic can save you a lot of hassle down the road; a poorly chosen topic can ruin your research experience.

Wednesday, September 24th / Schewe 210: Books & Catalog

The Schewe and I-Share catalogs are instrumental to your research at Illinois College, and today we’ll learn how to use them. We’ll also learn some nifty searching tricks, which will make your searching more efficient.

Monday, October 13th / Schewe 210: Databases & Journal Articles

What is a journal article? Why are my Professors always harping on about scholarly articles? Why can’t I just use books? These questions, and more, will be answered to your (dis)satisfaction!

Wednesday, November 17th / Schewe 210: Evaluating & Creating Websites

You’ll have to build a website for the course, and today we’ll go over a few services which will make that task easier. We’ll also discuss what makes a website “good” (and, conversely, what makes a website “bad”). I’ll also impart some serious Google knowledge on you, and your life will never be the same. Guaranteed!

Monday, November 24th / Schewe 210: Stats, Data, & Citation

Gathering statistics and data can be a particularly frustrating part of your research. To give you a leg up, we’ll go over some strategies for identifying (and ultimately finding) good statistical/data sources. We’ll also touch on some citation resources, which will make writing your papers a little less stressful.

Where to Find Me

Email: luke.beatty@mail.ic.edu

Phone: 217-245-3573 (this is a landline, so it WILL NOT accept texts)

Office: It’s not an “office”, per se, but I’m located behind the Circulation Desk in Schewe Library
Assignment

You will produce an annotated bibliography on a topic of your choice. We will discuss what an annotated bibliography is, and how to make one, over the course of our Library sessions. Your annotated bibliography will include:

- (2) books
- (2) scholarly journal articles
- (2) Internet resources (webpage, blog, statistics, data, etc.)

The annotated bibliography assignment is worth 100 points. As we progress through our Library sessions, you will submit the resources which will make up your annotated bibliography. Each resource submission is graded, as is your (finished) annotated bibliography. The grade breakdown, and due dates, are as follows:

**Topic Selection & Research Question / 10 points / Due: Friday, September 19, by 5:00PM**

Submit a one-paragraph description of your topic and a one-sentence research question. 10 points awarded if your topic and research question are within the scope of an undergraduate research paper. You may re-submit, for a full 10 points, if there are any problems.

**Books / 10 points / Due: Friday, September 26th, by 5:00PM**

Submit (2) books which you plan to use in your annotated bibliography. 10 points awarded if your books are appropriate for, and relevant to, your topic. You may re-submit, for a full 10 points, if there are any problems.

**Scholarly Journal Articles / 10 points / Due: Friday, October 17th, by 5:00PM**

Submit (2) scholarly journal articles which you plan to use in your annotated bibliography. 10 points awarded if your scholarly journal articles are appropriate for, and relevant to, your topic. You may re-submit, for a full 10 points, if there are any problems.

**Internet Resources / 10 points / Due: Friday, November 21st, by 5:00PM**

Submit (2) Internet resources which you plan to use in your annotated bibliography. 10 points awarded if your Internet resources articles are appropriate for, and relevant to, your topic. You may re-submit, for a full 10 points, if there are any problems.

**Citations / 10 points / Due: Friday, November 28th, by 5:00PM**

Submit MLA citations for the resources you will use in your annotated bibliography. 10 points awarded if your citations are correct. You may re-submit, for a full 10 points, if there are any problems.

**Annotated Bibliography / 50 points / Due: Friday, December 5th, by 5:00PM**

Submit your annotated bibliography. Having completed the previous portions of your assignment, you will be graded on the accuracy, completeness, and lucidity of your annotations. You may write your annotations in whichever style you prefer (we’ll discuss beforehand), though you must write (3) or more annotations in the combined style (again, we’ll discuss beforehand). If you receive under 35 points on this portion of the assignment, you may re-submit.