ENGL 003
Research Assignment

This research paper differs from the conventional research paper in that it is written in the first person (“I”) and includes the story of your search process along with your reflections upon the information you discovered and your reflections on the search itself.

PARTS OF THE PAPER

INTRODUCTION: Your paper will contain an introduction paragraph that addresses the following questions:
1. Why is this topic important to you or of interest to you? How does it affect you or what do you hope to gain by exploring it?
2. What specifically do you know about the topic?
3. What don’t you know about the topic? What specifically do you want to find out about the topic?

The introduction of your paper must be written before you conduct any of your searches for information. It should reflect all of your ideas, questions, opinions and assumptions prior to your investigation. The introduction should be written in the present tense.

BODY: The body of your paper should include the story of your search and your reflections upon the information you discover. Each step of your search should contain the following information:

1. Narrative Details: Where did you go? Who did you talk to? Describe people and places. The reader should be able to see you and follow along with you throughout your search. Such details are story like details; the telling of your search.

2. Information Discovered: What facts and information did you learn. Tell what you discovered about your topic by directly quoting and summarizing the information from your sources. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE! Papers containing plagiarism will earn a zero grade.

3. Reflective Commentary: What were your reactions to the information you discovered? What were your impressions of the sources you located? Did the sources confirm any of the information you stated in your introduction? Did you find the answers to your questions? Were you surprised or disappointed by anything you discovered? Were any of the assumptions or ideas which you expressed in the introduction different from the information and ideas presented in the sources? Have your ideas or opinions you expressed in the paper’s introduction changed in any way? Why or Why not and explain in detail?
CONCLUSION: Your paper should have a well-developed conclusion that presents some final reflections on your entire search. What did you learn and/or did not learn. Carefully reread your introduction and reflect on the following: Were all your search questions answered? What did you learn through the search process? What have you learned about using the library? Explain why you were pleased or displeased with what you discovered and discuss the ideas that have been confirmed or changed because of your search.

DOCUMENTATION: Follow the MLA 8e format with parenthetical citations, works cited page, etc.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:
1. As the final project to Tuesdays with Morrie this research assignment will consist of a health related topic of your personal interest. You may select a current health issue, disease or possibly a medical diagnosis that you or a family member or friend has received. Your topic must be approved by me and your introductory paragraph must be written following the guidelines on this handout BEFORE you begin any research. Attach a WORD document to an email and send your introduction paragraph to me by 8 PM on Monday, November 20. I will read your introduction and suggest any changes if needed. If you need to make corrections you must resubmit until I inform you that I approved your introduction paragraph. Keep checking your email after you send me your introduction.
2. Your paper will be typed using MLA format (12 font, lines double spaced, one-inch margins, proofread, spell and grammar check your entire paper) and consist of a minimum of two and a half pages plus the Works Cited page. You are required to cite a minimum of one book and a minimum of two professional database sites, plus the novel, Tuesdays with Morrie. Your research must be current: 2010 – present. In addition to your research findings you may also consider including an interview. (if you do you must include on Works Cited page)
3. YOU print your paper and staple this handout to the top.
4. Your complete paper is due on the due date: Thursday, DECEMBER 7 and will not be accepted late. No Excuses. This paper is worth 100 points.
5. Library _______________________
   You are required to attend this library session. If you do not you will have an unexcused absence and lose 25 points.