**Junior Project Guidelines (Pre-Senior Project)**

**Purpose 1:** The following project seeks to prepare you for your senior project. I do not want you running around like a “chicken with your head cut off” next year ☺

**Purpose 2:** I want professors and employers to go “WOW” when they meet you in person and read your writing. Many professor and employers want someone who can write proposals and engage in thorough research.

**Project Focus:**

* Your final product must deal with your professional and philanthropic endeavors.
* Your final product must focus on a problem that relates to a social justice issue (access is a big one). You must discuss issues of identity.
* Your final product will be an event, program, organization, or some type of approach to the problem.

**Personal Journal Entry 1:**

**(By April 17th, all I need is your journal entry and the 3 annotated job postings)**

* It is important that you take the time to reflect on your goals and the necessary steps to achieve those goals.
* Before writing the journal entry, you must:
	+ Create a list of your professional and philanthropic interest. Create sub-lists if your interests vary. For example, you may have an interest in the medical field and engineering field; however, you may want to be a chemical engineer or bioengineer, which relates to multiple fields. After creating your list, try to narrow your choices. You need to have a focus.
	+ Research the criteria and degrees necessary to pursue that career. If you’re going into the military, research whether they provide benefits for obtaining a college degree.
	+ Research and save information about colleges, universities, and programs that you’re interested in. They must offer your major(s).
	+ Go to a job search engine (monster.com, careerbuilder.com, indeed.com, or the actual webpage of companies you’re interested in working with).
	+ **Print off 3 job postings from 3 different employers. Annotate the job postings according to the qualifications and skills necessary for that profession.**
		- **Do not highlight the entire section. Highlight the specific skills and place a “$” sign next to the skills that seem most important. Put a check mark next to the skills you feel like you are already good at. Place a “\*”sign next to 2 skills you really need to improve on.**
* **Your first journal entry will answer the following questions:**
	+ What are your professional and/or philanthropic endeavors?
	+ Why are you interested in pursuing this?
	+ What are the criteria for you achieving those endeavors? What type of education or training is necessary? What colleges or programs will help with your training and education?
	+ How would you describe your current work ethics? What should you continue doing and what should you change in order to be successful in meeting your endeavors? (Be specific- hours of work, when you work, whether you annotate intensely, whether you skim, whether you practice presentations, whether you proofread thoroughly, whether you write a lot….etc)

**Annotated Bibliography**

* You should always research and summarize your research, before writing a research paper. Annotated bibliographies allow you to reflect on your research to determine what information seems useful. Also, it gives you a chance to reflect on what the prevailing discourse is and what themes consistently emerge in your research. Annotated bibliographies will also help you as you synthesize your various sources.

Your annotate bibliography will have the following:

* + 8-12 sources total.
	+ At least 1 book source and 3 internet sources.
	+ An MLA citation above the information.
	+ A 3-6 sentence summary. Make sure you explain the author’s argument.
	+ At least 2 paraphrased key points.
	+ At least 2 “money maker” quotes. Money maker quotes should be:
		- Powerful statements that help support the author’s argument.
		- Quotes that you believe would lose their meaning or power if you paraphrased them.

**Proposal**

* Your proposal will consist of the following in this order:
	+ Provide an attention getter.
	+ Pose 1-3 research questions.
	+ Briefly, explain the major themes that emerged from your literature review thus far. (What are various sources saying?)
	+ Provide your argumentative statement for why your event, program, or approach is necessary. (What do you want to ADD to what the sources are saying or what do you believe they are overlooking)
	+ Describe the current problem and the implications it has on us (individuals, families, businesses, communities…etc)
	+ Describe the advantages or benefits of your event, program, organization…etc
		- Relate this to Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs. (You may focus on 2-3 needs)
		- So, how will your initiative impact individuals, families, communities, businesses, and other institutions? (You do not have to discuss all of these)
	+ Explain the resources that are necessary for you to be successful.
	+ End with a conclusion.

**Proposal Presentations**

Students will present their preliminary plans to their class audience.

**Important Due Dates:**

Journal Entry 1 (2 homework grades) Due: April 17th

3 Annotated Job Postings

Annotated Bibliography (Exam Grade) Due: May 6th

Proposal Draft (2 homework grades) Due: May 15th

 Final Proposal (Exam Grade) Due: May 22nd

Proposal Presentation (Final Exam Grade) Due: May 29th-31st

I understand that I must go home and work on my Junior Project and pace myself. Also, I will not be guaranteed time in class to work on my project. I already know Ms. Alston wants quality work that will make her go “wow.”

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I will operate with integrity. I understand I will receive a zero for any assignment that is plagiarized.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_