

Feeder 1.1: Preliminary Research Worksheet

Directions: Please complete the following worksheet using complete sentences. In your final draft, you can include the questions or simply provide clearly numbered/labeled answers to each question. There are 9 questions total; don't overlook the second page of this document. As always, remember to refer to the specific instructions and grading rubric in the Unit 1 Assignment Prompt (Sakai>Resources>Unit 1).

Note: You do NOT need to add a complete bibliography at the end of your submission for all sources you list in this worksheet. However, the questions that request bibliographic citations for secondary sources will be graded (in part) based on your use of complete and accurate citations within your response to those particular questions.

1. In class, you chose potential topics for your work in this unit. Narrow your selection down to one specific topic related to the medical sciences. Name the specific topic you've chosen and provide a brief bulleted list explaining what you find interesting about this topic.
2. Now that you've chosen a single topic, do a Google web search on your topic using the "News" button. Describe what seems to be the latest news, discoveries, findings, etc. about your topic in one solid paragraph. (A solid paragraph is a minimum of five sentences.)
3. Go to the library website homepage (<http://library.unc.edu/>) and click on the Google Scholar button. (Do NOT just go to Google Scholar; access it via the UNC Libraries). Search for your topic. (Note: You may have to log in with your ONYEN and password.) Click through the first few pages of results. What seems to be the most heavily cited sources on your topic? Adjust the timeline on the left so that your search limits the articles from 2016 to 2022. Quickly peruse some of these articles. What journals seem to be publishing about this topic? What seems to be the latest findings? What subtopics/areas are scientists, doctors, health practitioners, etc. studying most? What types of sources are you finding (such as recently published books, articles, responses to other people's articles, etc.)? What ethical problems seem to arise when talking about this topic? What is particularly controversial about it? Respond in 1-2 solid paragraphs.
4. Now it's time to find the specific scholarly journal article on your chosen topic, a journal article that will be the focus of your work moving forward. This article should have been published no earlier than 2016. Ideally, this article should be an experimental study (or maybe an observational/retrospective study) that serves as the focus of your work moving forward. (Remember, you will eventually be taking on the role of a medical journalist and reporting on this study in your own popular health article/video essay.) Once you've selected your article, download a full copy (probably as a .pdf file) to your own device. Then answer these questions:
 - a. State the title of the peer-reviewed journal article, the year of its publication, the year(s) during which the actual study or experiment was conducted (you might have to speculate a bit here), the publication (the name of the journal, not the database) in which this article appears, and the names of all of the article's authors. Include also the affiliation of the authors and/or the study. (For example, are they researchers at X University or working for ABC Research Group, etc.?)
 - b. Provide a full, accurate CSE-style (8th edition, name-year format) bibliographic citation for this article.

- c. In a phrase, what is the topic of this article?
 - d. Sum up the topic, hypothesis, and main point(s) or findings of this article in 2-5 sentences.
5. Summarize the methods of the experiment in a solid paragraph (at least five to seven sentences).
 6. Were the people who conducted this study responding to prior research? (If so, cite those other studies here with appropriate in-text and bibliographic citations.) To earlier theories? To general trends in public concern/opinion? To specific current events? In a few sentences, explain what they were responding to with their research, addressing all of the above-mentioned possibilities. Another, more general, way to think about this question is: What's the context for their research? What prompted/motivated this study? What current gaps in knowledge or current needs motivated this study? (This is probably in the introduction or in the methods section of the article you're discussing. Consider also looking at the sources cited in the article you're discussing.)
 7. In a paragraph, critique the study design (methods) overall. Did the authors admit limitations or flaws in their study? Are there ways the study could improve in the future? (This will involve looking at their methods section and discussion/conclusion section to see what the authors admitted; you might also need to add your own insights as well even if they didn't admit any. In your answer, clarify which flaws/limitations the authors/researchers state and which you noted independently.)
 8. Why is the information from this specific study potentially important to your audience (the people potentially reading your article or viewing your video essay)? What are the larger implications (larger take-aways) of this information? Why does this study matter? (Your answer should be at least three sentences.)
 9. Think about the other sources you saw during your process of working on Feeder 1.1 so far. Is there any useful information you could integrate from those (or other) sources to make your article more informative and/or interesting? Provide CSE-style bibliographic citations (CSE 8th edition, name-year format) for at least two other sources (preferably scholarly, peer-reviewed sources, but hybrid sources might work also) that might be helpful. For each citation, write 1-3 sentences explaining what those sources might offer to your overall discussion of this topic in your own popular health article/video essay. (Typically, these should provide useful background info or context for your own topic, but there are other ways to integrate these outside sources as well.) (Hint: Look at the sources cited in the main article you are discussing. Those sources might be a good place to start, but you should also do some other research on your own as well.)

Eventually, for Feeder 1.2, you'll use the info you've gathered here to compose the text of your own popular health article on which you report on the specific study you've chosen. Then, for your Unit Project, you'll translate that article into a digital video essay.