

## Research Report

### Purpose:

A researched journal article is a genre that allows for scholars to present their findings from their primary research and make claims that answer very specific research questions. These articles are similar to the six secondary sources you read while creating your Annotated Bibliography, where you saw how other scholars have applied your framework to answer their own research questions.

Now that you've collected all of your primary and secondary sources, it's time to put all of your research together and begin to consider what you've learned this semester through your research study. The goal here is to finally, and confidently, pose answers to your research questions using all of the data you have collected.

### Assignment:

Compile and analyze your findings from your research in a 10-14 page paper (MLA or APA format). This should include a summary of your intent in researching this (essentially what you have in your research proposal), your research methods, and a thoughtful analysis of what you've learned from this data, along with citations and images if appropriate. Images can be really useful in situations where writing takes on a unique form, like a map or a manual, but they should not dominate the paper (please do not submit 5+ pages of imagery). You may also use headings and subheadings to organize your report (I would encourage it). Your introduction should be more than just one paragraph, and should introduce us to the research question, your interest in the topic, and maybe some of your findings from your research for the annotated bibliography (your **secondary sources**). Likewise, your conclusion may also take you a few paragraphs depending on what you want to explore and reflect on. This is not a five-paragraph essay, in which paragraph one is an introduction and paragraph five is a conclusion (although information will be presented in a similar order). Instead, your essay should include these sections:

1. **Introduction:** Open with a **CARS Model introduction** (we will discuss this later in the semester if we have not already) that engages your readers by synthesizing the six secondary sources you collected in your Annotated Bibliography. Your introduction should show thoughtful revisions using the feedback provided to you on your various drafts of your literature review (CARS Move 1). Move 2 should clarify the niche your project will occupy, and in Move 3 you must end with a clear introduction to your project and your revised research question(s).

2. **Methods:** Explain your methods for collecting all pieces of primary data. Describe what you did in order to collect your data and identify any participants of your research. Be sure to justify each method used (why you interviewed these people, collected these texts, etc.). Your Methods section should be written in a way that is both clear and thorough, so that someone reading your work could mimic your study if they chose to do so.
3. **Results:** Analyze your primary data, focusing on key findings. Here you want to explain what you learned from each piece of data and how it helped you better understand your research topic by drawing strategically from your codes for each piece of data. You will need to include quotes from interviews, examples from your texts, descriptions from your observations, etc. to help you do this analysis.
  - Notice that here you are not yet relating your research findings back to your framework or research questions yet, but simply explaining interesting, important, or unexpected findings from each piece of data.
  - You should open this section with your coding table(s) to help readers understand how you analyzed your primary research. Throughout this section, you will need to strategically explain the codes that stood out as most important for each piece of primary data, using those codes to help you articulate what was interesting, important, or unexpected from your data.
  - To help you complete this section, you may want to include other tables or figures to help develop your analysis. These must develop your arguments and be thoughtfully included. For example, if you collected a genre to study or you analyzed a video, you may include an image of the genre or screenshots of the part of the video you are discussing to help readers follow along.
4. **Discussion:** Synthesize your primary data and your secondary sources to create and support your central claim (answer to your research questions), using your central codes to do so. **I expect all of your primary data to be represented here, with at least two of your secondary sources used to help relate the primary data back to your framework.**
  - You should open your Discussion section with a clear paragraph that reminds readers of your scholarly conversation, research question(s), and claim(s). Your Methods and Results section will be numerous pages long, meaning it has been a bit of time since your reader has last heard about genre, so this is a really important paragraph to remind readers of the goals of your study and the argument you are trying to support.
  - Use the rest of this section to support that claim, by strategically connecting findings from across your primary data to help explain how you came to these conclusions. It may be really useful to separate this into subsections, as explained during this unit.

5. **Conclusion:** End your paper with any additional conclusions you may have drawn that did not fit into the earlier sections of your paper, followed by suggestions for possible future research opportunities to be done by yourself or other scholars interested in your topic. Think about how your own research could be further developed by suggesting other pieces of primary data that could have been useful to collect, other topics that could build on your findings, and/or what other conversations might have allowed for a different or more complete understanding of your own chosen topic. This is a great place to announce any limitations of your own study that someone else might be able to address.

At the end of your paper, you will need to include a **Works Cited** or **References** page that lists all of your sources. After this, on a new page, include any **Appendices** (each on their own page) that you may need to show consent forms, interview transcripts, observation notes, large images, coding examples, etc. You must include a consent form and a transcript for each interview, but any other appendices are up to your discretion. Your readers would really benefit, however, from seeing coded data. Meaning a transcript for an interview that shows your highlights with a key at the top that explains what each highlighted color means. If you studied a social media post, for another example, you could print that out and highlight it as well like we did with the reviews in class and then upload a scanned copy or legible photo as an appendix.

**Keep in mind:**

- A thoughtful report with good analysis should help the reader connect reported facts with meaning. This includes explaining visuals.
- You should treat this as a scholarly article, something you might share in Stylus or with the academic community in general. You should also treat it as something being presented to people who may not have context, and who will not have seen your research proposal.
- I will be looking closely at your level of analysis when grading