

Sabatino Mangini
Writing, Research, and Technology
Assignment #3: Collaborative Research Project
Presentation: Week 14

Purpose: Collaborate with at least one other partner to research and compose a project that explores a complicated issue related to America's production and consumption of food.

Focus: Your choice (I can hear the moans from here). Your research could delve into the co-op or [Slow Food movements](#), school lunches, farmer's markets, fast food chains, organic and sustainable farming methods, food labels – or the social, economic, and racial issues related to food access and affordability of “good” food in America.

Style: Again, your choice – to a point. You can write a traditional academic research paper in [APA/MLA](#) style or you could create a video documentary in the way of Food, Inc. Your purpose, focus, and audience will inform your style of composing and presenting this research. If you are creating a project to **inform sixth graders** about the dangers of fast food, you would write at a level that communicates your message to 12-year-olds. You might also add visuals or video clips to augment the message. In the same way, if you wish to **persuade a politician** to support a bill for tax cuts on local food, of course, your style would be different than what one would expect for a sixth grade class (at least we'd hope so, right?). No matter the audience, your project should be presented in a thoughtful and clear manner. Here are the two options for your project (*both options must have an introduction/prologue and a summary/afterword):

- **Option #1:** Write a seven-page research paper using APA/MLA style. The double-spaced, 12-point font paper must have an abstract and an annotated bibliography with at least seven sources.
- **Option #2:** Create a properly edited 10-minute documentary. The video must have a written abstract and an annotated bibliography with at least seven sources.

Process: We will spend four weeks constructing your collaborative research project. Here is our process:

- **Watch Food, Inc and read the essays and articles on our [course Web page](#):** Please take notes as you watch and read these resources.
- **Choose a research partner:** You can work with more than one person. You cannot work alone.
- **On your Collaborative Research Page, create three links:**
 - **Research Questions:** List 10 possible research questions that relate to your topic. This will help you conceptualize your topic and create a framework for your research.
 - **Annotated Bibliography:** Use APA/MLA style to list at least seven sources with a brief summary of each source: <http://olinuris.library.cornell.edu/ref/research/skill28.htm>. Interviews and digital clips/texts are approved source materials. When you present the final product, please leave only the sources you've used for the project.
 - **Final Collaborative Research Project:** First, write a 200-word [abstract](#) that reveals your primary research question, motive, methods, and findings from your research. Then, provide an introduction/prologue before or embedded in the actual paper or video. Finally, please provide a summary or afterword where you can reflect on your project.
- **Participant Approval:** You will be publishing this research online, so if you interview people you must get your participant's approval beforehand. See Appendix 2 here for the release form: <http://tiny.cc/i6ps1>

- **Record interview:** If you record the interviews, please use a camera or digital audio recorder so you can publish a media file on your site. If you write down participant responses, please take accurate notes – maintaining the dialect and voice of the participant (don't edit for grammar or syntax, etc.).
- **Presenting:** Post the project to your website under your *Collaborative Research Project* tab. Each research partner must have this project published on her site; yes, the projects can be the exact same on each of your pages.

Product: Your final piece must use **at least seven sources** and should be arranged in two main parts:

- **Part 1:** An **abstract** that contextualizes your research and prompts your audience to read/view your project.
- **Part 2:** A **7-page paper** or **10-minute documentary** that you can post to your *Collaborative Research Project* page **on your individual website**. The paper or documentary must have an introduction/prologue and a summary/afterword to contextualize the project.

Audience: Please construct a research project that appeals to the following audience:

- **Primary:** People who will most benefit from your research
- **Secondary:** People who view your site
- **Tertiary:** Our class