

## **26. Component Parts of the Social Issue Research Portfolio**

### **1. Research question and focusing statement**

#### Research question

What is your central research question?

Outline the dimensions of the issue you will investigate. State the problem as clearly and succinctly as possible. What do you want to find out and how will you go about doing it? (One page)

#### Focusing statement

Why is this social issue of concern to you and why should it be of concern to others? What experiences brought you to the issue? What have you learned in the process of experiencing its effects first hand (from your summer internship) and from investigating it further in the research project? (Three pages)

### **2. Book review and annotated bibliography**

#### Book review

List the title, author, and vital information about your chosen text.

(Please use standard citation format: MLA Handbook or Perkins reference resources such as:

<http://www.lib.duke.edu/libguide.htm>)

Why did you choose this particular book? What are the author's main points? Where do you agree or disagree? What is your critique of the book? How does this book help you deepen your understanding of the social issue you are investigating? (Three pages)

### Annotated bibliography

Provide a descriptive listing, written strictly in your own words, of key resources about your social issue that interest you. Include brief descriptions of relevant books, magazine and newspaper articles, films, videos, and web sites. (Several pages of annotated bibliography listings, around one to two paragraphs per listing; and then a few pages that describe two key resources in greater detail. Total of 10 brief annotations and 2 extended annotations. Please use standard citation format. (Five pages)

### **3. Interview with a Practitioner:**

Find someone who is a practitioner in your field of interest, someone who can clarify and focus the key issues you are investigating. Ask great questions. Write a brief description of the practitioner, and explain his or her connection to the issue you are researching. The interview can be written in verbatim format, “Q and A” format, or article format. (Three pages)

### **4. Policy Memo**

Draft a policy memo about the issue. What policy options can you identify? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the different options? Which option is the most viable? What are your specific recommendations for action? (Three pages)

### **5. Summary analysis of Leadership Issues**

What is the adaptive challenge? How would you focus attention on the adaptive challenge? Who needs to be involved in order to make progress on the issue? How would you maintain disciplined attention on the adaptive challenge despite the potential messiness of the learning

process? What are the underlying structures or systems that need to change in order to make progress on the problem? What kind of leadership is needed to create these changes? (Three to five pages)