

English 846/105 Allied Health CAA

Research Outline Template: Essay 4

Providing a clear outline of your inquiry enables you to see your thought process and will help you get better feedback from your peers and your instructor. Use this template to structure your Essay 4, which is due by Saturday, May 5th. Remember, Essay 4 is only an outline. It can be messy, but it should address each of the following sections in some way.

MY TOPIC: _____

1. Problem or Observation: Start with a health condition, problem, or healthcare issue that you care about. What do you already know about this topic? Why do you care about it?

2. Preliminary Questions: What are you curious to learn about #1? What do you want to know about this topic?

3. Preliminary Fact Finding: Do some preliminary research to find answers to your questions in #2. Make a note of further questions that emerge.

4. Research Question: Once you have found answers to #3, refine your question. A good research question can be answered with data and statistics, but also leaves room for analysis and interpretation.

5. Data to answer your question: Gather as much data as you can to support your question. Make a note of where you find each piece of information and write down some of your own reactions to the data. Messy is OK for now. See what you have, and later you can organize it into paragraphs.

6. Thesis/Findings: Your inquiry should lead to an answer to your research question. You're writing to share what you discover and assert your position on this topic, but be careful not to overstate your findings. Only make claims that you can support with evidence in the length of this paper. Stay as specific as possible and also stay open to modifying your thesis as you learn more about your topic.

7. Possible Objections: Addressing opposition makes you a well-informed, fair, and trustworthy writer. Anticipate what a critic might say. You'll address these objections in your paper.

Works Cited: Always keep a running list of your sources that you can keep referring back to. It's fine if you don't end up using all of the sources and they don't have to be cited perfectly at this point. You can format the list into proper MLA style at the end.