**Primary Research Assignment:**

**Original Data Collection Requirements**

In this research class, you are being asked to do more than merely synthesize other people’s work around your hypothesis. You are being asked to generate your own, original data that will potentially be incorporated into your synthesis paper and will impact your final product.

When you wrote your hypothesis proposal and preliminary research proposal, you began the process of planning your primary research. This assignment will take several weeks to finish and planning how you will accomplish your goals is as important as achieving them.

**Your choices are:**

1) distributing a questionnaire to 50 people (minimum) and tablulating the results;

2) completing an observational study;

3) conducting a series of five telephone, Skype or face-to-face interviews (in addition to the required two assigned earlier) with experts in the field;

4) completing an analysis of primary document materials/data; or

5) conducting an original experiment (or a quasi-experiment).

**OPTION #1: QUESTIONNAIRES**

Questionnaires may be conducted electronically or on paper. *Remember that if the questionnaire involves asking students in ANY school to participate, you must obtain the permission of each of the schools’ principals. Questionnaires distributed outside of HCPSS do not need a principal’s permission.*

STUDENTS WHO MIGHT USE THIS TOOL:

* Are looking to determine the opinions of a large group of people to support or refute an idea related to their research.
* Are looking for specific statistical information that relates to their own local population (ie. relating your topic to your school).

REQUIREMENTS:

* Student must collect data from at least 50 respondents.
* Students must have survey approved by teacher and principal.
* Information from survey results must be recorded in a data table and charted appropriately.
* Findings must be analyzed and summarized according to instructions distributed near the end of the data collection period.

ANALYSIS/RESULTS/DISCUSSION:

Charts/graphs of your results should be included as well as a blank copy of your questionnaire. Additionally, you must submit a one page minimum typed/single spaced analysis of data collected and how it applies to the research question/hypothesis. *(Specific formatting instructions to be distributed near the close of the data collection period.)*

**OPTION #2:TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEWS** 

All transcriptions must follow the same format instructed for the previous interview assignment.

STUDENTS WHO MIGHT USE THIS TOOL:

* May be involved with observation where interviewing those observed might enhance the research
* Would benefit from interviewing experts/professionals in the field of study.
* Are studying a topic that precludes them from conducting an experiment or distributing a questionnaire to an appropriate sample themselves and will therefore benefit from interviewing an expert who has conducted such research.

REQUIREMENTS:

* A minimum of FIVE telephone, Skype or face-to-face interviews properly transcribed interviews must be submitted.
* Each interview must be with a different individual.
* All interviews should be conducted with either professionals knowledgeable in the field or specific individuals with direct knowledge related to your research.
* Findings must be analyzed and summarized according to instructions distributed near the end of the data collection period.

RESULTS/ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

Transcribed interviews must be submitted. Additionally, you must submit an analysis of data collected and how it applies to the research question/hypothesis.*(Specific a formatting instructions to be distributed near the close of the data collection period.)*

**OPTION #3**:**OBSERVATIONS** 

You will gather data by observing a situation, event or process. You may use either a notebook to record a series of observations or you may create a check list that you will use as you observe.

STUDENTS WHO MIGHT USE THIS TOOL:

* Are involved in a creative endeavor (art, music, dance, theater) and will be journaling observations throughout the creation of the work.
* Are conducting descriptive research that involves observing and recording actions, words, and other relevant observations.

REQUIREMENTS:

* If your project involves observing a group or individual, you must have a minimum of 5 observations of the person or individual, with detailed notes regarding exactly what happened. Each observation may open with a focus question and notes should relate to that question. Or, researcher may develop an observation check sheet to allow organized and quick recording and coding of actions.
* Findings must be analyzed and summarized according to instructions distributed near the end of the data collection period.
* If you are in art, music, dance, theater etc., your data collection must be dated with a minimum of 10 entries spanning 10 weeks of data collection. You could include observations, sketches, rough drafts of ideas, etc.

RESULTS/ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

Data collection materials must be submitted. Additionally, you must submit an analysis of data collected and how it applies to the research question/hypothesis.*(Specific formatting instructions to be distributed near the close of the data collection period.)*

**OPTION #4: PRIMARY ANALYSIS OF PREVIOUSLY **

**RECORDED DATA or a COLLECTION of DOCUMENTS**

STUDENTS WHO MIGHT USE THIS TOOL:

* Are conducting science research where they are not able to conduct an authentic experiment, but have access to raw data.
* Are conducting historical research and have found primary documents to support their research.
* Are conducting descriptive research and have found raw data that they can analyze in a new way. (examples: a comparison of laws or policies dealing with the same issue that are in place in two different jurisdictions; an analysis of several websites and their coverage of a particular issue and an evaluation of the information that is provided; an analysis of several maps that allows a new map to be created that offers new insight into an issue; an analysis of data gathered by a professional and recorded in a database.)

REQUIREMENTS:

* Find the raw data or documents and have your teacher approve the plan/analysis prior to beginning.
* If you are conducting document analyses, use a notebook or an Excel Spreadsheet to record information. Include the title of the document/artifact, your observations/descriptions, and any apparent bias. Explain the implications of your analysis.
* For raw data, you may use a notebook or Excel Spreadsheet to organize and record information.
* Findings must be analyzed and summarized according to instructions distributed near the end of the data collection period.

RESULTS/ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

Data collection materials must be submitted. Charts/graphs of your results should be included where appropriate. Additionally, you must submit an analysis of data collected and how it applies to the research question/hypothesis.*(Specific formatting instructions to be distributed near the close of the data collection period.)*

**OPTION #5:EXPERIMENT/QUASI-EXPERIMENT** 

STUDENTS WHO MIGHT USE THIS TOOL:

* Are conducting an experiment and have data to analyze

REQUIREMENTS:

* If you are conducting an experiment, you must collect and maintain your data in some form—notebook, Excel spreadsheet—that can be submitted and checked by your mentor and teacher. You must include your hypothesis, variables, procedures, data tables/charts, analysis of data (results), conclusions and reflections.
* Findings must be analyzed and summarized according to instructions distributed near the end of the data collection period.

RESULTS/ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

Data collection materials must be submitted. Charts/graphs of your results should be included. Additionally, you must submit an analysis of data collected and how it applies to the research question/hypothesis.*(Specific formatting instructions to be distributed near the close of the data collection period.)*

**Due Dates: (On your assignment sheet)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Submit “*Planning My Primary Research*”

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Submit final Research Proposal (a separate assignment sheet will be

distributed)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check-in Point: students must submit typed “Methods” paper.

Each applicable sub-section should be at least a paragraph single spaced.

*Participants*—If you conducted a survey or interviewed experts, you must include a paragraph about those who participated in your study. Identify any potential bias/sample weakness.

*Materials*—Include a short paragraph describing any materials needed for your study—from surveys to items used in lab experiments, make sure to explain what you used. Your survey should be attached.

*Procedure*—Specifically explain what you are planning to do. Include copies of all documents relevant to your study (ie) questionnaire, letter to prinicipal, list of interviewees, names of documents to be analyzed etc…

\*\*If you need assistance or have found that your original plan is not working, ask for help prior to turning this in!!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check-in Point: Must show teacher your completed instrument (ie) completed questionnaires, notebook of observations or lab results, transcribed interviews, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Final Results, Analysis and Discussion due (assignment will be distributed). This will include charts, graphs, results and a discussion about your research and whether it supported your hypothesis.