Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy

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Abusing Our Human Rights: The Truth, the Internet and a Multi-Media Approach to Connecting Global Cultures

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Abusing our Human Rights: The Truth, The Internet and a Multi-media Approach to Connecting Global Cultures
First Year Experience 1220

• Thematic seminar designed to promote information literacy skills and support students’ cognitive and affective integration into the University community

• Required during the first semester for all students new to the University

• Students may not withdraw

• Seminar portion: 75%

• Extended Orientation portion: 25%
First Year Experience 1220

• Critically evaluate print and electronic information for:
  – Currency
  – Relevancy
  – Authority
  – Accuracy
  – Purpose

• Apply document guidelines for print and electronic information used in assignments
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Tin
- Child soldiers
- Wal-Mart
- Widespread conflict since 1960’s independence
- Democratic Republic of the Congo

Widespread conflict since 1960’s independence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has led to the use of child soldiers. A significant portion of tin mined in the region is sold to companies like Wal-Mart, contributing to the financing of conflict. The cycle of exploiting resources and causing human rights violations is a major concern in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Al-Qaeda

Amputation Mutilation Rape

1990 civil war

Kono, Sierra Leone

Diamonds

America
Portfolio Approach

• **One Human Right** chosen from the Universal Declaration

• **Comprised of five separate elements:**
  – Written overview
  – Visual material
  – Testimony
  – Letter
  – Annotated bibliography
Written Overview

Discussion of what this right is and how it is protected/abused in counties around the world or in an individual nation.
Visual Material

Photographs
Maps
Video
Graphs
Illustrations
Charts
Testimony

Survivors
Witnesses
Perpetrators
Legal Proceedings
Investigations
Intelligence reports
Letter of Reflection

Personal response to the subject of the portfolio, discussing the impact that the investigation and research has had on the student’s global outlook and attitude towards Human Rights

Dear Dr. Frigo,
My initial reaction upon hearing of the requirements for this class was to feel overwhelmed by the amount of information; however, as I became more immersed in my research, I began to truly appreciate the lives of others.

Dear Steff,
My global outlook has been transformed by the world I discovered through this assignment. Never before have I valued my own rights and privileges so much. The horror of events in Rwanda during the 1994 genocide has made me passionate about involvement in raising awareness of the current situation in Darfur.

Dear Professor Frigo,
There are no two ways about it – this assignment was tough. There were many times when I felt lost trying to decide how to select the best information to include because there was so much available on the Nuremberg Trials. I am really happy with the finished portfolio and I actually started to enjoy my research about halfway in. I still hate annotated bibliographies!

Dear Dr. Steff
I have been challenged by foreign perceptions of my country since I moved here to the USA, and this assignment gave me an opportunity to examine aspects of our judicial system through a new lens.
Annotated Bibliography

Summarizing
Evaluating
MLA
CMA
APA
Portfolio Presentation

- Testimony
- Audio
- Video
- Kagame
- Dallaire
- Mbaye

- Documents
- Article III
- Powerpoint

- Annotated Bibliography
- Letter of Reflection
- Map slideshow
Meeting Course Objectives

Evaluation of resources
• Print material
• Electronic sources
• Audio-visual data
• Images

Documentation guidelines
Benefits for Students

• Choices about direction of assignment ➤ greater engagement with material
• Multiple media requirement ➤ greater familiarity with documentation conventions
• Multiple media requirement ➤ greater variety and enjoyment during research process
• No essay requirement ➤ greater focus on information literacy as opposed to writing ability
Applicability

• Assignment can be adapted for any major, class, or student interest
• Materials required as part of portfolio can vary depending on subject area
• Multiple documentation styles can be used in a single portfolio
• Portfolio can be presented on CD-Rom, Power Point, visual display board, or printed document
Potential for Collaboration

- Peers
- Faculty/staff teaching course
- Information Literacy specialists
- Reference librarians
- Interviewees and contributors
- Subject specialists
Big Picture Agenda