

## FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT SEQUENCE

**Proposal Take One: Wed. 10/1 for library research session**

**Proposal Take Two: Fri. 10/3 to section leader (with bibliography)- set up conference time**

**Proposal Take Three (if needed): Wed. 10/15**

**Draft (First Version), Essay: Friday, 11/21**

**Oral Presentations: Mon. 11/24, Mon. 12/1, Mon. 12/8.**

**Final Version: Wed. 12/10**

**Suggested length: 10-12 pg, plus bibliography.**

The goal of this research project is to enable you to engage in a more extensive discussion of a topic of your own choice within the context of media studies. The topic that you choose may be one that you've touched on in some of your previous writing (essay or section assignments) or a completely new topic. It is important to choose a topic that (a) generates both intellectual interest and challenge for you (b) connects with critical issues within the course (c) can be addressed within a ten-twelve page essay.

Generating intellectual questions, defining a topic area and then narrowing down to a topic is the first stage of this project. For **Proposal Take Two**, write a two-page proposal for your essay; append a working bibliography of at least five sources. Your proposal should tell the reader what intellectual questions motivated your choice of topic area, and should describe how you have narrowed your topic so that you can research and write your essay. What issues/questions do you plan to discuss? At this point you don't need to know your argument or thesis statement, but you do need to know the contours of debate or key themes. You should schedule a proposal conference with your section leader to discuss research and writing strategies. You will probably be asked to revise your proposal to clarify the direction of your research.

While we hope that students will choose to write about a wide variety of topics, we expect that each essay will present a clear argument rather than simply review the literature on a given topic. On 11/21, you will submit a draft or "first version" and will then receive comments from your section leader. The final version will be due on the last day of class (12/10). Oral presentations will give you the chance to share your research findings with us and the class.

\*Note: If any student wishes to submit an accompanying media project (e.g. video, website design, CD), we can discuss how to combine multiple media forms.