

Essay #4 Topic Sheet

Personal Inquiry Project Over a Topic of Interest from *The Faraway Brothers*

The Faraway Brothers discusses a topic that has been a huge topic in the United States for many years, but especially in the last five years—immigration, especially the flood of immigration from Central America. For this project, you will pick some topic **generated from your reading of the book** which you found interesting and want to know more about. The more you have a personal “felt need” to know regarding this inquiry project the better. Learning about this topic will benefit you in some way personally. This isn’t a project to support what you already know but to investigate and discover something you don’t already know.

For this project, you will pick your own research topic. Then you will research it through library and web sources, and perhaps from field research where you talk to people or experts. The goal will be to find answers to whatever you set for your “Research Question.”

This essay is not a large research project—you aren’t writing a Dissertation or Report for Congress. The research paper you will write will be a 4-6 page paper that uses a minimum of five research sources. Your final project will be accompanied by an Appendix in which you evaluate the sources you used and why you selected to use them.

Our Research Project will have the following phases:

1. WK2-7 Reading the Book—prospecting for possible topics
2. WK 7-8 Proposing Research Topics—deciding on a topic
3. WK 8-11 The Quiet Phase of Researching—thinking about and informally investigating
4. WK 11-12 Active Research—searching and gathering information, finding an answer to the research question
5. WK 13-14 Writing Up the Research Results—drafting our paper

Our Final Paper Will Have These Part

- I. Introduction
—set up personal connection to topic and research question and one sentence summary of findings (serves as thesis).
- II. The Story of Your Research Process
—describe what you did to research so we can gauge your research results and appreciate them
- III. The Results of Your Research
—here you will detail what you found out, the answer(s) you found out to your research question
- IV. My Thoughts on My Research Process and My Research Results
—what have you learned from this project about researching and about your topic of interest.
- V. Conclusion
- VI. Appendix

Essay Requirements:

The research paper will be 1000-1500 words and incorporate information from at least five research sources in addition to the Markham book (= six total sources). You will likely still quote Markham’s book. In addition to Markham’s book, you must have one other book and one peer-reviewed academic article in your mix of sources.

The final draft will be presented in MLA Documentation format with a Works Cited page and an Appendix in which you evaluate each of your sources according to the 5Ws Method for Evaluating Sources Test.

--see [Essay Criteria for evaluation](#)