# Initial Research Findings Paper

(This assignment can be deployed with the op-ed, CRAAP testing materials. Topics can easily be changed if the instructor desires.)

Write an MLA or APA formatted Initial Research Findings Paper of at least 750 words, not counting the works cited/references page

Your **Audience**: an academic reader

Your **Purpose**: Your Initial Research Findings Paper is a document designed to provide informational and analytical writing to your reader.

You will use at least **2** informational articles to help deliver background info to your reader. You will need to identify **1** opinionated article to analyze for your reader.

Use these headings to help organize your paper:

**Background**

**Analysis of Op-ed**

**Questions to Guide Further Research**

**You must use these headings. If you are not sure how headings work, be sure to review the sample papers in addition to these directions.**

The **Background** section should be at least two paragraphs. Use this section to help your reader understand some important facts about your assigned main topic (Plastic Waste, the Opioid Crisis, or Social Media) AND to help your reader understand the sub-topic your opinionated article addresses. (Opinionated articles typically address a specific sub-topic. For example, no one writes an op-ed on “Social Media” in general. No credible author argues that it is wholly "good" or "bad." Instead, op-ed writers create opinionated responses to sub-topics like the question of whether social media can have a negative impact on mental health OR the question of whether social media platforms offer sufficient protection of privacy. These are two very different sub-topics that both have to do with social media. You will work in a group of students that all have the same main topic, but each of you will have a different subtopic.)

Use quotes and/or facts from **2 informational articles** to help you develop the writing for the Background section. These paragraphs should include multiple in text citations for facts and/or quotes from the informational articles. Do NOT tell me things you and everyone else already know about social media or the other topics (common knowledge.) Use the sources to deliver pertinent facts from sources.

The **Analysis of Op-ed** section involves analytical writing. Answer the prompts below to create a thorough **Analysis of Op-ed** section:

Introduce the author of the **opinionated article** you chose and explain why the author and/or the periodical is credible. What makes them qualified to write about this topic?

Explain the main argument. Where do they stand on the issue you are researching?

Explain what points of support/Reasons the author uses to support their argument. How do they attempt to convince the reader to agree with their viewpoint?

Is there evidence/data offered to “prove” these reasons? Look for facts, numbers or other “proof,” as opposed to hypothetical examples and emotional appeals.

Comment on whether you find the evidence convincing. Does the author provide compelling evidence or are they relying mostly on appeals to emotion (pathos) to convince the reader?

Hopefully the reading you’ve done about the topic so far has made you realize there are other things you need to find out. Develop at least five questions you will use future research to answer and list them under the **Questions to Guide Further Research** heading. Strive to identify questions that can be answered through further research.

**Be sure to include a properly formatted Works Cited/References page for all sources. You must use at least three sources. Be sure your sources pass the CRAAP test!**

 **NOTE:**

Group members can share ideas for informational sources, but, of course, the writing should always be your own.

Each group member should have their own unique opinionated article and develop their own distinct Questions.

Licenses and Attribution:

"Initial Research Findings Paper Assignment" by Jeff Sanger is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND 4.0](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0)