

**LIB 200
HUMANISM, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Dr. Phyllis van Slyck
Fall 2002**

The Creative Research Project

Professor van Slyck's principles of good research writing:

- 1. Exciting professional research begins with strong feelings. You need to begin with a subject you care deeply about. Think of yourself as a professional on assignment: you are writing this for a real audience, like a newspaper or magazine.**
- 2. Next, put yourself in the position of the audience. Think about what will not only inform but move your reader. What kind of writing keeps your attention as a reader? Make a list of what engages you. Keep referring to this list as you plan what to include in your project.**
- 3. Ask yourself what different *kinds* of research material might be available (stories, films, photographs, letters, testimony). Collect powerful facts and powerful illustrations.**
- 4. For this project, you will need facts and illustrations, but you may present this information in a creative way in Part II of your essay. Here are some possibilities: a dramatization or dialogue between people with opposing viewpoints; a letter to someone who has some power to change the situation; an annotated photo-essay that explores the problem or issue; a "Sixty Minutes" interview with different people involved.**

You have three topic areas: colonialism and responses to colonialism, sexism, the AIDS crisis, or a topic of your choice involving humanism, science and technology. Below I have given examples of a creative project in each of these areas.

- 1. Colonialist Behavior Continues: a woman working in a maquiladora (factory) along the Texas Mexico border, her life, her work, environmental abuses in side and outside the factory, threats to her safety, her hopes, women's support groups.**
- 2. Female Genital Mutilation in one country in Africa: viewpoint of community (child, mother—pressures to conform vs health issues—interview with doctor; how change can occur.**
- 3. The AIDS crisis in one African nation from the viewpoint of an infected woman with children: a journal of her life for a year, support, obstacles, drug availability, community support; what should be done.**

You should begin by finding a subject you care deeply about. Remember that you will present a portion of this project to the class. . .your enthusiasm will count! Group projects are encouraged but you will need to identify your roles and contributions clearly. You must submit a source folder and drafts one and two with your final paper. The source folder should contain all your sources with passages quoted or paraphrased highlighted.