

## FINAL RESEARCH PAPER – HOW TO GUIDE

### Steps toward completing the Final Research Paper

1. Complete Urban Observations 1-7 to establish in writing your neighborhood local knowledge.
2. Revisit Urban Observation #4 to review what urban problem or issue you would like to focus on for the final paper. (Urban Observation #4: Pick an issue that is important in this neighborhood – gentrification, immigration, food security, unemployment, transportation, some new urban development project, etc. Write about how this issue is impacting the neighborhood.)
3. Use Midterm Section II to begin gathering academic journal article sources.

### *(You should be done with steps 1-3)*

4. Bring a preliminary BIBLIOGRAPHY to class to have sources approved – **Due** May 20, 2008.
5. **FIRST DRAFT** due in class May 27, 2008 – Please bring two copies for peer feedback.
6. Friday, June 6, 2008 hardcopy due in my OFFICE (C-413) between 2-5pm – no papers accepted after this time. No email copies accepted - no exceptions! **PLEASE REMEMBER TO EDIT** – I will mark down for careless writing! 5-7 Pages not including Bibliography or images.

### POLICY PAPER FORMAT GUIDELINES

The research paper should be organized in the style of a **policy paper**.

Imagine that your Community Board has asked for your expertise on an issue in the neighborhood and for your recommendations. This policy paper is your formal response to them and should contain the following sections described below.

SECTION 1: Short overall description of your neighborhood relevant to your topic area, including important Census data, location and very brief history if significant. 1-2 pages

SECTION 2: Describe the problem or issue you will address. Set up the controversy. Whom does it affect and how? When did this problem begin? Why are you concerned about it? Do you agree or disagree with them? Is there a great deal of debate about this issue or do researchers tend to agree? Summarize (and cite!) some of the most interesting opinions of other people whose research you have read about this topic. 3 pages

SECTION 3: Most importantly, establish what your position is on this issue and **why**. Then propose policy solutions or suggestions. Be as specific as possible! For example, if there are organizations that you know about which are doing great things – recommend they be given funding to expand their projects. If you have found a case study in another location of how a community combated the problem – recommend how those same practices could be implemented in your neighborhood. If there is a current policy in place that you don't think is working – recommend it be revoked. Please include **1-2 strong policy suggestions**. 1-2 pages

SECTION 4: Bibliography 1 page and any Tables or Photographs you wish to include.

NOTE: Students are highly encouraged to discuss their research project with the instructor during regularly scheduled office hours and students experiencing problems in their writing should make an appointment with the LaGuardia Writing Center.