

CHEM-135 Honors Colloquium – Research on Campus Sustainability Issues Refining Your Research Problem and Questions

By 10:00 AM on Monday, October 5th I expect to receive from everyone a one-page, typed preliminary outline for your research project (via email attachment). This initial outline should include the following:

- (1) Topic(s)
- (2) Updated list of questions.
- (3) Put each question into a category where it fits best. Some questions may fit into more than one category. Here are a few examples:
 - Questions that have “substance” and will require sustained research
 - Questions that have a yes/no answer
 - Questions that you find very interesting
 - Questions that you find the least interesting
 - “Weak” questions that are re-phrased into a research question
 - Questions with many layers (that raise more questions)
 - Questions that are not really appropriate for your topic
 - Any other category you feel is relevant

By 9:00 PM on Sunday, October 11th I expect to receive from everyone a one-page, typed, updated outline for your research project (via email attachment). This updated outline should include the following:

- (4) Begin to narrow your list down to a few “central” questions. You should begin to consider the following points about what makes for a good research question:
 - (a) Raises more questions – no simple answer.
 - (b) Sustains research and inquiry.
 - (c) YOU find it interesting!
 - (d) Others have a stake in the answer.
 - (e) The question implies a methodology or approach to learn the answer; in what subject area(s) should you start looking?
 - (f) Something been said about the question.
 - (g) It’s the right size - not too general or too narrow.
- (5) How would you explain the Significance of this project to others? Begin to develop a list of statements about the problem/central question and why the answer is important.
- (6) Begin building a set of resources (bibliography or works cited list). List name of the source (date, volume, etc), title, authors, page numbers. Include a brief summary of the pertinent information you find useful.
- (7) List three or more objectives that you might focus on in order to help you answer your research question.

Let me know if you are having any trouble with your project. Please check out and book mark the CHEM 135 web page (<http://webhost.bridgew.edu/ebrush/CH135%20Fall%202009.HTM>), and begin looking at some of the resources.

Center for Sustainability Semester Grant Program

Due by Wednesday evening:

- Campus sustainability issue and research question (s)
- Describe the methodology that will be employed to address the research question
- Describe the general significance of the project to the BSC community as related to campus sustainability
- Proposed budget
 - books (cost, title, author)
 - photocopy expenses
 - miscellaneous supplies
- Budget justification (why you need to buy this resource)
- Draft circulated Thursday
- Due Friday, Oct 9, 4:00 PM