Research Paper Alternatives

annotated bibliography

literature review

bibliographic essay

identify a primary and a secondary source relevant to a specific event or person

write an entry for a dictionary or encyclopedia

evaluate and edit an article in Wikipedia

for a given topic, compare & contrast one or more of the following:
  - a reference book and journal article
  - an article and a book
  - a popular article and a scholarly article
  - disciplinary approaches (e.g. psychology and sociology)

creative projects
  - video
  - photography
  - performance
  - painting/drawing/prints
  - fiction/poetry
  - creative non-fiction
  - music/sound recording
  - web site

grant proposal or research funding request
  - identify appropriate agency/funding source
  - conduct literature review
  - assess current state of the field
  - identify next steps

poster sessions
  - students take turns presenting their findings and "making the rounds"

mini-conference
  - program with abstracts
  - panels organized by broad topic areas
  - brief oral presentations
  - question and answer period

curate an exhibit (actual or virtual)
  - research objects in a given collection
  - decide what to display
  - write labels and/or wall text
  - write catalog entries and/or essays
  - create metadata

recommend the purchase of an object (work of art, book, manuscript, etc.)
  - research an existing collection
  - study current auction catalogs and market conditions
  - justify recommendation

stage a debate
  - teams research and argue opposing viewpoints
• read an article and identify a viewpoint that is not represented -- research the topic and argue from that perspective

predict the outcome of an election or auction

project the impact of new or proposed policies or legislation

develop a communications strategy for a political campaign or activist organization

analyze key journals and decide where to submit an article
• editorial board
• submission guidelines
• circulation/distribution
• indexing/aggregating sources
• trends in content

propose a new topic for the course
• suggest readings
• relate new topic to others in the course

consult data/statistical sources to support an argument

track reports/uses of scientific research in the popular press

collect original data and compare findings to results in relevant literature