English 1B Fall 2011 **Research Assignment: Further Details**

**Field Research Component:** Great things can be found in books, but other kinds of great things can be found out in the world. For this assignment, I want you to take both approaches. Your grammar handbook describes field research as including personal interviews, observation, and surveys (pp. 75-76). I want you to do the first two. It is up to you to decide whom you will interview and what/where you will observe, and this will be part of your topic proposal.

**Optional Service Learning Component:** One kind of field research might involve actually working with a person/group that is related to your topic. For example, if you are studying Veggielution as an example of urban gardening, you can actually join a work crew to harvest food. This will only work with some topics, but I encourage you to consider it. Note: This doesn’t have to be food-oriented. You can do an extra-credit write-up when you’ve done the service part. Tell me in your topic proposal if you want to do this, and I’ll do what I can to help set it up and explain the write-up in more detail.

**Working Bibliography**

**Overview**: This assignment is intended to give you an incentive to dive right in and start your research. It also gives you practice using MLA bibliographic format. Finally, it gives me a chance to assess your progress and help you assess your sources. I might also have some sources to give/lend from my bookshelves or voluminous clippings file.

**Requirements**:

* At least ten sources related to your research topic.
* At least 3 different kinds of sources (books; articles from newspapers, magazines, journals; Websites from reputable organizations (not hobbyists or polemicists),
* personal interview(s) with someone related to your topic (at least one)
* At least one source published within the last 6 months, none older than 10 years.
* Call it Working Bibliography, not Works Cited, but use MLA format otherwise (see page 454 in your handbook for a model and/or the website cited below)
* This must be typed!

**Not Required:** You don’t need to use all of these in your project. It’s just a tentative list.

**Due Date:**

For details on how to use MLA format: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

A sample works cited page <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/12/>