**The Great Gatsby Research Project / First Semester Final**

We will continue to study *The Great Gatsby* from a literary perspective. We will also look at it through a non-fiction/research perspective. In-Class Computer days: December 6, Dec. 10, Dec. 12.

**Part 1: Group** (**Part 1 is due by the end of class on Wednesday December 4).**

**Task 1: Develop an Essential Question**

Your group must develop an essential question to guide your research:

• Must include an aspect of the topic that requires persuasive, controversial,

or argumentative conclusions.

Ask yourself: *Could people disagree on the answer?*

• Must consider the topic through the lens of Fitzgerald’s Gatsby.

Ask yourself: *How does Fitzgerald see this topic?*

*How do I predict I will see this topic (today or some other researchable time period)?*

*Essential Question Example: How has the importance of education changed since the Jazz Age?*

Key Brainstorm: Define your Topic (What do Wealth, Class, Love, Death, American Dream *mean*?)

Then come up with the Essential Question.

**Task 2: Create 4 Focus Questions**

After you develop your Essential Question, create 4 Focus Questions, which you will divide among

your group members.

*Focus Question Examples:*

1. *What was the state of education in America the 1920’s?*
2. *How important was education to the characters of The Great Gatsby?*
3. *What is the state of education in America today?*
4. *How important is education to my generation of friends?*

**Part 2: Individual (Part 2 is due at end of class on Monday, December 18).**

**Task: Research YOUR focus question**

Source Types you will need:

• For this project you will be looking at:

- Statistical information - try census and .gov websites

- Anecdotal evidence (stories) - blogs, newspapers, memoirs, etc.

- It is essential that you consider source validity during your research, especially for

your anecdotal evidence.

You will have completed:

* Easybib Notecards: Completely filled out - this will be more clear as we look at Easybib
* Power Paragraph extracted from note cards. This is pretty easy if you do the notecards right!

**Part 3: Group Synthesis (Everything is due at the beginning of class on December 18)\* Power Paragraph Requirement Below!**

You group must create a 5-7 minute presentation *for your semester final* of your findings:

• Explain your poster (see below)

- Poster/graphic representation of your group’s findings and conclusions.

- Must show the statistical information you and your group used to answer the research

questions.

*Graphic Illustration examples include: timeline, highway map, river, plate of food, console of a car, play list, menu in a restaurant, tree, house, etc. Just make sure it is some symbolic representation of your topic.*

\***Power Paragraph Requirement**: Turn your Focus Question and Cards into a Power Paragraph (Intro, Claim, Explain, Pertain). Glue the 4 Power Paragraphs to the back of your Poster.

**Instructor Details / The Requirements all Due with Your Poster/Presentation on December 18.**

1. Individuals must turn in 6 EasyBib notecards WITH their presentations. Cards should include two statistical and four anecdotal examples, from a minimum of two different sources or websites (although 6 different sources is not requirement).

2. Individuals must use the notecards to write a Power Paragraph. This power paragraph begins with your individual Focus Question.  A) Write a CLAIM -- a statement that provides an answer to the focus question you have been researching). B) Then INTRODUCE a statistic or quote that supports your claim from one of your notecards. C) Then EXPLAIN the statistic or quote in your own words. D) Then PERTAIN the statistic or quote to your claim... how does it answer the focus question and relate to your claim. E) REPEAT -  steps B, C, and D two more times so you have used three of your notecards. F) Write a CONCLUSION sentence.  Presto! You are done with your Power Paragraph.

4. The Poster. This is a group synthesis activity. The four of you will come up with a drawing so you can symbolize your topic. Please write your group essential question on the back, along with the four or five focus questions. Take each power paragraph, once it is typed or written, and glue it on the back of the poster.

5. The Presentation. On the day of your final, your group will give a presentation on what the symbol(s) represent on your poster with regard to your topic. Each of you will simply say, "This was my focus question, and these are the answers I came up with..." *In-class Monday, December 18*

6. The Written Final.  Unrelated to any of the above, on Monday, December 16, each of you will be given an in-class written final on *The Great Gatsb*y (half of which will be on **Symbolism**) where you will be asked five questions, worth a total of 30 Summative Points. *In-Class Monday, December 16, Gatsby should have hopefully been read at least once, maybe multiple times by now.*