**ENG112 Exploratory Research Assignment**

Step 1. Re-read the last paragraph of your literature review. Which author(s) are you speaking most directly to, in terms of how their ideas contributed to your research questions? What is the issue, question, or problem you are investigating further in this final research essay?

* For example, in my sample research project about Holocaust memorials, Peter Novick’s discussion of American memory of the Holocaust sparked my research question on how the construction of US Holocaust memorials might connect to (or shed light on) the relationship between public monuments and collective memory of a past event.

Step. 2. What kind of primary source (a movie, a short story, a memorial, a data set, a historical episode, newspaper coverage, etc.) would allow you to explore your research question? Why would this primary source be a good choice? In other words, how would this source provide an opportunity for you explore the issue, question, or problem at hand?

* I would need to find out when and where Holocaust memorials were built in the US.

Step 3. Do some exploratory research online to identify possible primary sources. For example, if you are interested in the issue of potential inaccuracies or unrealistic plot choices in popular films, what Holocaust- related films have been made that are controversial in some way? Try to identify a few possible ideas.

* I developed my own primary source (a data set) that compiled information on when and where Holocaust memorials were built in the US, because I could not find a source that already did so.

Step 4. What kinds of academic secondary works would be useful for you to locate?

* As we discussed in class, the additional academic secondary works that would help me explore my research question and analyze my data set might include:
* a source considering the history of Holocaust memorials in the United States
* a source examining US citizens’ awareness of the Holocaust in the postwar era
* a theoretical text related to the concept of collective memory
* a theoretical text considering why monuments are built and/or how communities use historical events to develop a shared identity or to express shared values

In terms of the issues at stake in *your* research question, what would be helpful to learn more about it, in terms of what authors might already have written about the topic?

Step 5. What key terms might you use to search the library book catalog and electronic databases to locate possible academic secondary works on these topics?

* The sample key terms we came up with for my project included various groupings of: Holocaust, history, memorials, memory, collective memory, United States Holocaust memorials