

# Research Design for the Multi-Genre Constitution Project

“A ‘research design’ jump-starts your project, gets you thinking about your topic in a concentrated way. You’ll do some initial exploration with words on paper. You’ll come to think things you would not have had you only mused about your topic” (Romano, 2009). I also want to get you ready to start thinking analytically about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights

As always, your work must be typed: Double spaced with margins enough so that I can write comments in them and suggest further resources (Romano, 2009).

## Parts of your Multigenre Research Design

- 1) Name your topic theme. Some suggestions are: liberty, balance of power, good of all, general welfare, individual rights, life, pursuit of happiness, we the people, domestic tranquility, posterity, family, sports, property...
- 2) Describe what you know about your theme and the topic of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. “Without consulting anything, free write what you already know. Let it sit a day or so, then come back an edit for redundancies and refine for specificity. You can do this as bullets, if you want (Romano, 2009).
- 3) “Tell what you want to learn about (Remember Curious George? You be Curious Student)” (Romano, 2009).
- 4) Describe the origins of your self-chosen theme. “What sparked your interest in it? Why do you want to know how it connects to the Constitution? (This is just me being nosey, being Curious Champa)” (Romano, 2009).
- 5) List at least a *dozen* questions you have about your topic (or twenty, or fifty) (Romano, 2009).
- 6) Describe your plan for collecting information about your topic (Romano, 2009).

## Sample Multigenre Research Design

- 1) **My multi-genre research paper theme:** Posterity
- 2) **What I already know about my theme and the topic:** This makes me think of wisdom and artifacts that are passed down from generation to generation. This helps a family or a culture identify what is important to them.
- 3) **What I want to learn:** How is The Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the road to citizenship related to the theme of posterity.
- 4) **The origins of my research**  
I really do not know much about the how to become a citizen or exactly what is in The Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.
- 5) **Some questions I have about motivation in reading**
  - a. What exactly is in these documents?
  - b. How relevant are these today?
  - c. How did these documents come to be?
  - d. Where did the ideas of documents come from?
  - e. How do these document impact me personally?
- 5) **My research plan**  
My plan for collecting information is to read the textbook and watching videos and participating in classroom discussion. I then need to think about how all these documents relate to the theme of posterity. I will use the internet for a broader view. I will write in my NWCvV notetaking guide to organize my information.