Listicle Assignment

Listicles are hotly contested these days because many people see them as being examples of lazy writing for lazy readers--fluff that wastes our time without enriching our lives. That can certainly be true but it doesn't have to be. Listicles may even have some advantages over other types of writing.

> For instance,
> they **teach** us something,
> they show how information is **related**,
> they help us deal with **information overload**,
> they get us **thinking**,
> they are **designed** to be read online,
> they are understandable to a **general audience**, and
> they are **multimodal**, pairing images with text to make their argument.

Thus, this assignment is both a stand-alone artifact and another step toward your research presentations. You should be creating something that does all of the things listed above, which in turn will help you sort out your thoughts about all of the research you have already completed.

The **first step** is to gather the sources you included in your annotated bibliography and any other material you have found since then that you want to include. Think about how you can arrange that information to tell a story. How do the sources relate to one another? What does it all add up to?

Next, you'll want to craft 6-10 paragraphs of 50-250 words that build on one another to tell the story of the research you've completed. (You can discuss each source individually or mix them together.) **Then**, you will need to find images, videos, gifs, etc. that you can pair with the text you've written.

A Successful Listicle Will... Have a catchy, succinct, and **descriptive title** (clickbait!); **pair images and text** in a meaningful way that helps the reader to understand the topic and the story you are telling about it; be **well documented and cited** in a way that is appropriate for the audience, medium, and genre; and make use of **section titles** to make transitions from point to point.

On Modes and Media
It is up to you how you create and present your listicle. Most listicles are found online so you might choose to create and publish yours online as well. Website builders like *Tumblr*, *Weebly*, *Wix*, *Blogger*, etc. can be made to work for this purpose. You'll want to consider the functionality of these sites before you get started though—for instance, not all of them allow you do include videos with their free accounts.

If you don't want to create an online listicle, you may create one using other software, such as InDesign, Word, PowerPoint, etc. Just be sure that you submit the file as a PDF in order to preserve your formatting.

On Peer Review
Peer Review #1: For the first peer review, please bring 3 hard copies of the text for your listicle. The text includes the title, subheadings, and paragraphs that follow the images.

Peer Review #2: Bring your completed listicle. At this point, it should be in the format you will submit it in and ready for submission. No hard copies are required if you can access your work on a laptop or tablet.

On Grading
Your listicle will be evaluated based on how well it accomplishes the goals outlined in this handout and how well it adheres to the defining characteristics of the genre.