

**INITIAL RESEARCH PROJECT IDEA:** Due Tue. Jan. 27, 2015

- Make an appointment to come see me to discuss a topic in person
- Then submit this form, or type using similar categories, ½-page minimum

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

The semester “term paper” assignment asks you to research a specific and focused topic related to postwar architecture (approx. 1945-1975) and to produce an excellent, college-level research paper that builds on **primary sources** (first hand evidence from the time period) AND **secondary sources** (previous scholarship about the past), and that contributes to a **new or revised understanding or interpretation** of your subject.

**POSSIBLE TITLE** (Be creative! Good titles start with a short pithy phrase, then a longer descriptive sub-title, separated by a colon... It should hint at the subject matter, and the point-of-view or thesis you'll try to prove):

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**SUBJECT AREA** (Define the focused subject area of your paper, preferably an architect. Include the name of specific architects, buildings, and places,,and central ideas or themes.

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Then read about your subject area in Wikipedia, in the Curtis textbook, in the Frampton textbook Modern Architecture: a Critical History 4th. ed. (2007), in Google, and other general or encyclopedic sources. What fascinates you most? How do authors differ? What questions do you have about your subject? You must find, read, and interpret existing sources or evidence on a particular subject that interests you, establish the different points of view that have already been expressed about that subject, and then argue your own position on a subject. You should seek to go beyond a summary of existing knowledge about a subject (a “report”), and instead create an original interpretation or point of view about an existing subject (“re-search”).

**THESIS / CONJECTURE:** Based on the subject chosen, start with a “beginning question,” or “initial direction.” Then present a specific, definitive “hypothesis” or what you want to “prove” as an answer to the initial question. Remember, you are NOT writing a “report”, but rather a “research paper” that tries to develop new understanding. Think of the research project like a case you’ll make to a jury: your paper will try to convince the jury (me) that a certain initial conjecture (thesis) is true, based on a careful consideration and analysis of evidence (research), presented in a convincing, logical order (paper), to make a clear argument and prove your point! This part can usually only be done after some initial reading and thinking critically about which specific aspects within your subject area most interest you and are still unanswered!:

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THESIS Cont'd:

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SOURCES / EVIDENCE: Check the bibliographies in sources listed above, then check these sources as well as library for more that fit your specific topic! Be specific, list actual books AND articles that you have looked at, that seem like "good", intellectually rigorous works! **Avoid listing the textbooks** or other overly general books that don't deal more specifically with your topic! Always use proper "Chicago Manual Style" bibliographic format (see [www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html))

Sample Book Format: Author, Book Title (Place: Publisher, Date)

Sample Article Format: Author, "Article Title," Journal Name vol.# (Date): pages

PRIMARY SOURCES / ARTIFACTS \_\_\_\_\_

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SECONDARY SOURCES \_\_\_\_\_

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- Reminders:
- This form due **Tue. Jan. 27**
  - revised ½ -page typed research project idea due **Tue. Feb. 10**
  - Revised Proposal & Research bibliography of 12 sources due **Tue. Feb. 24**
  - First 3 pages of paper and annotated bibliography due **Tue. Mar. 24**
  - After receiving comments from the instructor, **KEEP THIS FORM** and all other work. **Resubmit this form** and all work each time you hand in a piece of the research project.
  - FINAL PAPER DUE: **Thu. Apr. 16**