Topic Paper

The topics approached in this course are presented as essential questions that we must ask ourselves as professionals who encourage use and provide access to electronic resources for children and young adults. While we did not “answer” these questions in class, you had the opportunity to explore readings, class discussions, Internet resources and your personal viewpoints about each topic.

Your final assignment is to explore a topic of interest, to which you will add your own value. To do this, you will create and write about your own essential question. Choose a topic that relates to our course. There may be a topic that we did not address to your satisfaction during our short time together, or one that you wish to explore in more detail. It may be one that we did not cover in class, but has to do with the theme of the course. Whatever topic you choose must be crafted into an essential question and approved by your instructor before you may begin your researching and writing.

1. Choose a topic of interest.
2. Craft it into an essential question. Use the essential question worksheet to help with this task. Make sure that you understand the criteria of an essential question before you begin.
   Essential question criteria:
   Essential question worksheet:
   http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/~jansen03/Essential_Question_Worksheet.pdf
3. Get your essential question approved by your instructor by August 2, 2004 by submitting your worksheet.
4. When your essential question is approved, begin researching and writing about your topic. Your final paper should be a thoughtful response to your essential question—more than a traditional research paper. You need to include in-text citations (parenthetical) and a Works Cited page of scholarly (and popular, if appropriate) resources. Your citations and Works Cited should be in MLA style. This paper should be between 5-8 pages in length, not including the Works Cited page(s) or title page. Use in-text citation, Times New Roman, 12 point, double-spaced. Include a title page.
5. Turn in the approved Essential Question Worksheet with final paper
6. Paper is due bjansen@sasaustin.org by 10:00 a.m. on July 8.
7. You will want to use the accompanying scoring guide to assess your efforts.