

Brianna Dowd P.5

Global Perspectives Journal:

August 22, 2016:

Today I met with my instructor for the first time and she introduced the course to me. She provided me with the syllabus of A-Level Global Perspectives and we discussed the initial steps to starting my research. She told me to work on formulating two questions that I believe are interesting, important to me, and something that I feel passionately about. After forming and researching both of these questions, I will meet with my instructor to decide between the two of us which question I should choose as my final research topic. Additionally, my instructor gave me a checklist of exercises that will help remind me of how to validate, analyze, and evaluate research information. Among these exercises is assisting students who are taking AS Level Global Perspectives with validations, citations, and other skills needed for papers one, two and three. Assisting AS Global Students will be a task that I will complete every week day along with my own studies. This will help me to remain adept in the skills that I will need to write paper four while I am researching.

August 24, 2016:

I started thinking of issues that I feel passionately about to research. In AS Global Perspectives, I favored medical related issues because I have an infatuation for medical research and plan to study medicine in the near future. With this in mind, I began researching topics related to medical research. I found the Johns Hopkins Medicine Research page useful, however, none of the topics listed jumped out at me immediately. I then decided to read a few recent news articles on medically acclaimed research. I was browsing through the news articles and came across one on black market organ harvesting. I had heard of this before, but never became interested enough to read further than a title or so. Turns out, I most certainly should have read further in the past because this topic is unbelievably intriguing. After reading several more articles on organ harvesting, including “Body Snatchers: Organ Harvesting for Profit” and “The Ends of the Body: Commodity Fetishism and the Global Traffic in Organs” I was captivated. There are unlimited ways to view this problem as it arises in many different manners. The problem ranges from doctors who are illegally taking and selling organs from their patients to people in LDC’s kidnapping and stealing organs from citizens on the street.

August 25 & 26, 2016:

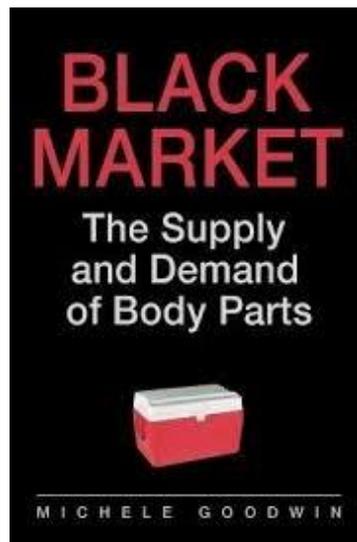
Today I assisted students studying AS Level Global Perspectives on APA Citations to freshen up my personal skills on such. This will help me because I haven’t reviewed APA since the last semester of school and because I will need this skill for paper four, it is vital that I allow myself to review and practice this skill before writing. Along with helping the AS Global students, I also continued researching organ harvesting. My instructor met with a group of us A-Level Global students to reiterate the tasks we should be completing and to go over any questions/confusions. She suggested we find several books to read to supplement our research. I am now looking to find different books about the issue of black market organ harvesting. Moreover, I am reading about other medical-related issues to research in search of a second question.

August 29, 2016:

Today while watching the news, I heard a story on CNN that there is currently a strong demand on the U.S. black market for kidney donors. Several people admitted to the news agency, and thus the world, that they are selling or previously sold one of their kidneys solely because they need or want the money. They earn this money by selling a part of their body, which, to me, seemed eccentric because in no way would I ever imagine donating an organ for the satisfaction of getting paid. This opened a whole new door to research for me because I now am thinking of this issue in an economical perspective. Not only is this an issue of ethics and medical ability, but is expanded to economics due to the massive revenue it can bring a donor or a stealer. Beyond this research, I reread my paper two from AS Global Perspectives to remind myself of the research process and to reflect on what sources I thought were good and which I thought could have been better.

August 30, 2016:

I continued assisting AS Global students on fallacies which will help me when reading articles to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources. I also researched and attempted to narrow down books that I plan on reading for my first topic. I found *Black Markets: The Supply and Demand of Body Parts* a potential read due to its relevancy to my topic and interesting title. As it seems that this book will address different aspects of the issue, I believe it will be a great place to start, however I may need a more specific book further in my research. I additionally started formulating a question that involves the black market organ harvesting. I am currently working with “Should organ harvesting take place on the black market?” Although this question would work for what I plan on doing at the time, I don’t particularly like it and will tinker with the structure and wording as I go along.



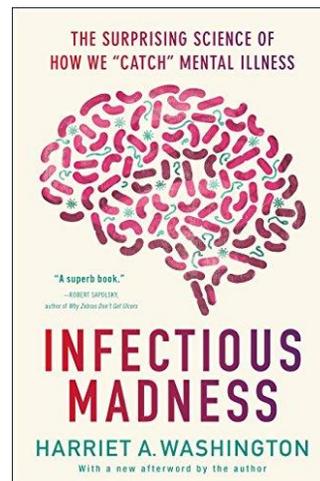
(Black Market The Supply and Demand of Body Parts. 2016)

August 31, 2016:

I decided that in my first topic question, I want to include the word “trafficking” when addressing the black market of organ harvesting because I feel that the definition of this word, as defined by the Cambridge English Dictionary as “the activity of buying and selling goods or people illegally”, thoroughly represents the process of organ harvesting on the black market. I believe the use of this term in my question will clarify the research topic and increase the accuracy of the question. Today with AS Global students, I assisted in teaching and formulating validations for electronic sources. This forced me to review my personal validations that I used previously and to start thinking in terms of evaluation of sources. This task will surely help me to further my evaluation skills while validating sources for my own research. My instructor checked in on my logs to ensure that I am keeping up with them and reminded me of the tasks I need to be completing, such as formulating my two questions, finding books on those topics, and practicing skills needed for paper four.

September 1 & 2, 2016:

I went to the library to look for inspiration for a second topic to formulate my second question. While browsing the non-fiction science section, I came across a book that caught my eye. It was titled *Infectious Madness*. The book’s category could be considered psychology but it is specifically about the science of “catching” a mental illness from germs present in our everyday lives. After reading the synopsis of the book, I was left wanting to know more about how people could “catch” a mental illness and whether this was common and where. I began researching this further online and discovered that “catching” a mental illness is an actual threat to people all over the world. Additionally, during this time, I helped AS Global students with forming questions. This skill is something I needed to refresh myself of considering I haven’t used this skill since the last semester of school. Helping the AS students will moreover help me to better construct my two questions needed for my course.



(Infectious Madness, 2016)

September 5, 2016:

Today I did not have school due to the national holiday, Labor Day. In spite of this, I took advantage of the day to continue my research. I decided to formulate my two research questions as my topics are already solidified. This will help me to stay on schedule considering my instructor wants my proposal submitted to her by October 20. For my first topic regarding organ trafficking, I believe a question such as “Organ trafficking: saving lives or ruining them?” would be most intriguing and best fitting. For my second topic regarding germs and the ability to catch a mental illness, I believe a question such as “Can you catch mental illness?” would be best fit for the topic area. Although these questions may change throughout my research progress, I feel as of this moment, these are the best fit questions to allow me to move on in my research.

September 6, 2016:

I met with my instructor as well as some other A Level global students and we discussed the tasks needed to be completed before she allows us to meet with her over which question our research will form from. Of these tasks is completing a literature review or research review on both topics that we choose to research. My instructor offered us her personal literature review on her doctoral dissertation to use as an example for our own literature review. A literature review will help me to organize my research as well as solidify a direction that I want my essay to go in before deciding which topic will be better fit for my final research essay. Along with a literature review, my instructor is requiring us to have found two authors for each topic of research who have concrete judgement or insight on the chosen topics. As I have already found two authors, I am well on my way to completing these tasks in order to have my meeting with my instructor.