

# GL/P&J 3-1-3 Comparative Research Thesis

Some Essentials and Beyond  
**Structure, Method, Voice**



# Time Table – April 2016

- **Global Eyes Study Abroad Photography  
Durrick 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Awards Thurs 4/14 4pm.**
- **Final Due Date: Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> Noon!**
- **Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 1:30: In Class Presentations**
- **Academic Symposium Poster Session:  
Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> 11am-2pm**

# Overall Structure

- **Section-1: Introduction**
- **Section-2: Approach/Methods**
- **Section-3: Comparisons**
- **Section-4: Conclusions**
- **Section-5: Sources/Citations**
- **Important Notes:**
  - **Personal Voice/Be interested!**
  - **Formatting**
  - **Copy-editing**
  - **Images**
  - **Digital Components**

# Introduction

- **Intro Hook?**
- **Clear General Topic Description** →
  - ➔ **Current Relevance**
  - ➔ **Global Significance**
  - ➔ **Personal Connection**
- **Focus**— What your **CASE STUDY** is **specifically** going to zero-in on and **WHY?**
- **Primary RESEARCH QUESTIONS**—Outline the Specific RESEARCH QUESTIONS that you are trying to understand more about
  - Address any **secondary research questions** that you hope to touch upon in your study.
- **Why** this topic is significant in terms of the area of Global Studies?
- **What YOU hope to better understand?**
- **Acknowledgements**
  - **Ack#1**... that other major authors have dealt with the topic/issue. Perhaps a bit about what questions they raised but didn't answer.
  - **Ack#2**... That you are just looking at one small piece of a larger puzzle, and that what you hope to come out of this study is \_\_\_\_\_ (a better understanding of the complexities of the topic—in particular, or questions for further field work/research, etc.)

# Important Things to Keep in Mind

- **This is NOT a “scientific study!”**
  - **Avoid** absolutist terms such as “prove” ...or “I am out to show.”
- **Instead**—look/explain **trends, patterns, current developments**
- **More of a persuasive position** paper.
- It’s ok to hypothesize. (If current trends hold...)
- **Explain and Reference** your articles, authors, data... **USE THEM AS A SPRINGBOARD.**
  - According to Author X \_\_\_\_\_, (Use only last names)
  - As \_\_\_\_\_ suggests, points out, indicates...
- **YES to MAPS, IMAGES, CHARTS!**
- Format your project.
- **PROOF READ!!!!**
- **CITATIONS are MANDATORY!!!**



# Methods → Structure Section

- **Rationale** for WHY the 3 countries/cultures were examined? to help you answer your question(s)
- **Resources Examined**— Given the nature of my research questions, here's what I examined...
  - Recent developments in these three countries (time frame)
  - Examined Specific/Major works
  - Examined a series of articles from sources ranging from \_\_\_\_
  - Interviewed these people...
  - Examined this collection of films...
  - Assessed these policy initiatives...
- **Limitations**—What kinds of things you weren't able to examine, but would be particularly helpful for future research.
- **Structure**— Here's how **rest** of your paper is structured. (First, I will examine...

# Main Body of Comparison/Research

- **Structured → Comparisons**

(Country 1 → C2+1 → C3 +1/2)

- **Context:** What do “we” need to know in order to understand country X at present or in the past?

- **Engagement!** What is striking/interesting!

- Captions/Explanations for any/ALL images, data, charts.

- **Past → Present.** Highlight Major Conclusions that people reached in previous works. Are they still true? What has changed?

What has happened in the past...into what is currently happening recently 2012-2106.

- How such conclusions appear to **challenge common assumptions/ideas** or what others have had to say on the topic?

# Conclusions

- REFRESH/QUICK Summation of Main Findings —.
- Global Studies Connections--Several interesting and important things have emerged out of this study which are important to the field of global studies.... These include...
  - International connections
  - National connections
  - Regional/Local connections
- On a personal note, here's what I found to be most interesting/provocative.
- Acknowledgement that this is just one piece of the puzzle.
- Future? What this research suggests for the future?
- Questions for further research-- Additionally, this research has suggested a number of important questions for further research.