Assignment #2
Interview
ENG 4/574

Description
Using the approach to interviewing as described in the course readings, design, conduct, and document the results of interview-based research. You may choose to conduct an interview within the general topic that you have chosen to work with for the course of this class, or you may choose to conduct your interview in a different topic area altogether. This assignment will be completed over a two-week period and thus involves four components: designing your research, conducting your research, analyzing your data and presenting your data.

Bring your research design draft to class on Tuesday, September 19. Your design should include a research question, some background information about why you are interested in pursuing that question, and your research plan, which includes the attributes of the person(s) you will interview, how you will conduct the interview, when you will conduct the interview, and an interview guide. We will spend time workshopping your research design in small groups that day.

Bring your raw data in the form of interview notes or your transcription of the taped interview and your preliminary analysis of the interview data you collected to class on Thursday, September 21 where we’ll spend time workshopping your data and preliminary analysis in small groups.

E-mail me the final report of your interview-based research before the beginning of class on Tuesday, September 26. The final report should include an introduction (including your research question and some background information about why you are interested in pursuing that question), a methods section (a description of exactly how you conducted the research), your findings and your analysis of those findings, and a conclusion.

Due dates
- Tuesday, September 19: Bring your research design to class.
- Thursday, September 21: Bring your raw data and preliminary analysis of it to class.
- Tuesday, September 26: Submit your final report via e-mail to me at gretchen.haas@mnsu.edu before the beginning of class. Please include “ENG 4/574 <your first name> <your last name> Interview” in the subject line.

Evaluative Criteria and Standards
Good
- In your introduction, you articulate your research question and some background information about why you are interested in pursuing that question. If possible, connect your research question to secondary sources you identified in your annotated bibliography.
- Your methods section matches up with your research question, i.e., you should demonstrate how the research you conduct is an appropriate means by which to address the question you have articulated.
- Your methods section describes, in detail, how you undertook your research and should reflect what you learned in class about this particular method.
- Your findings section includes some, but not necessarily all, of your raw data. The data you include here should correspond with your analysis, i.e., someone reading your findings would come to the same conclusions as you did. Another way of thinking about findings vs. analysis is that the findings are a set of raw data and in the analysis, you make sense of those findings. Be sure, however, to present your findings ethically and do not exclude outlying data simply because they do not contribute to a nice, neatly packaged analysis.
In your conclusion, you address how the research you conducted did (or did not) end up addressing the research question you posed. You also describe how you might design follow-up research to better address your question or to expand your inquiry.

**Average**

- In your introduction, you reference your research interest and some background information about interest. You do not cite your research interest in the context of any secondary sources.
- Your methods section somewhat corresponds to your research question, i.e., the connection between your research interest and the method by which you intend to address that interest is tenuous.
- Your methods section describes how you undertook your research, but does not contain adequate detail about your method. Nor does your methods section necessarily reflect what you learned in class about this particular method.
- Your findings section includes too much or too little of your raw data, your findings are not well connected with your analysis, or you include your findings but engage in little analysis of your findings.

**Poor**

- In your introduction, you obliquely reference your research interest. You do not provide context for the reader to understand your research interest.
- Your methods section does not correspond to your research question, i.e., there appears to be little if any connection between your research question and your method.
- Your methods section does not adequately describe how you undertook your research, nor does it reflect the method as you learned about it in class.
- Your findings section includes little data, your findings are not connected with your analysis, and/or you neglect to include the analysis segment.