Research Assignment Checklist

When designing or revising a research assignment, consider the following characteristics of successful assignments.

☐ **Relevant**
- Does the assignment support your course outcomes?
- Is it linked clearly to the topics, subjects, and/or the texts you're discussing in class?

☐ **Appropriate to student level**
- Does the assignment require knowledge or skills that students don't already possess?
- Do your students need a library workshop or other instruction to bridge gaps?

☐ **Clear**
- Are the objectives and directions clear and easy to follow?
- Will students understand what you're asking them to do and why?

☐ **Flexible**
- Can students make some choices about their topic or their approach?
- Could a variety of resources be used?
  BONUS: Creative and flexible assignments are less prone to plagiarism.

☐ **Accurate & Field Tested**
- Are titles, locations, citations, Web sites, databases or call numbers accurate and up-to-date?
- Have you consulted a librarian to be sure the resources are current?

☐ **Doable**
- Is there enough information available to complete the assignment successfully?
- Is the due date or time-frame realistic?

☐ **Free of Library Jargon**
- Did you define library terms in your instructions?
- Have you clarified terms like abstract, annotation, citation, and scholarly journal?

☐ **Thought Provoking**
- Does your assignment encourage students to think critically about the information they find?
- Does the level of analysis match the objectives and the students' preparation?

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