Composition 1B Spring 2015 **Researched Argument Assignment**

**Overview:** Now that you have had a brief introduction to the current conversations about our food system, it is time for you to choose a topic that particularly interests you and learn more about it through research. Finally, you will make an argument, supported by research, for a particular audience. This will also give you a chance to get familiar with college-level databases and practice citing sources using MLA style, two goals of the course.

**First Step:** Choose a Good Topic Look over the list of topics and spend some time on the Web finding out more about any that seem intriguing. If you don’t see anything that grabs you, pitch me another topic, just so it has something to do with food. Don’t just go for a topic because you think it will be easy to find material. That can backfire! Then **write up a BRIEF topic proposal** for me that includes the following:

* Topic and focus: Narrow it down to an issue that can be usefully dealt with in 4 pages (e.g. not just “Fair Trade” but “Fair trade coffee, effects on the coffee-growing community” or “Fair trade coffee: the marketing challenge”)
* Thesis: Make an *arguable claim* that you believe (even tentatively) you can support with your research.
* Audience: Tell me which particular audience you will address, e.g. a marketing company designing fair trade ad campaign, Safeway executives deciding which coffee products to carry, a café owner trying to decide whether to carry fair trade coffee, etc. DUE:

**Second Step:** Research your topic and compile a **working bibliography** of at least 10 sources, formatted in MLA style. Submit. DUE:

**Third Step**: Make an **Annotated Bibliography**: Annotate 5 of the sources (more details on this to follow) 1400 words. Rough Draft DUE: Final Draft DUE:

**Fourth Step**: Read, take notes, research some more, repeat. Decide where to go for your onsite, real-world observation. That part of the research will result in a **Field Visit/Profile** (more details on this to follow). DUE:

**Fifth Step:** Draft essay. It should be at least 1,400 words and no more than 1,600 words, in MLA format. You must cite at least 5 sources with at least two opposing viewpoints. Bring to rough draft peer review workshop. DUE:

**Sixth Step:** Considering all the advice you’ve gotten on the draft (including mine), **revise** and **submit the final draft** of the **researched argument** to Turnitin.com. At the beginning of class when it’s due, submit hard copies to me: the final draft (on top), rough draft, peer review sheet, all bundled into a manila envelope with your name, my name, and the section number. DUE:

**Final Step:** during the last weeks of class, you will present an **Oral Report** of your findings (details to follow). DUE: