I.R.P. Research Paper (after Mr. Snow's E.S.P. guidelines)

During second term, you should be conducting library-type background research on your topic. The purpose of this research is to learn your topic in depth. If you are doing an experiment, this information will allow you to make appropriate decisions about the design of your investigation. If you are participating in someone else's research, or "data mining" in search of information, you will better understand the goals and prior achievements of your area of research. If you are doing an ESP, this work will inform your decisions about how you can best contribute to improving your environmental issue. For all of you, your newly acquired knowledge will help you refine your project design to best address the issue you have elected to study.

 Research should include learning the appropriate science at the root of your chosen topic, as well as learning some of the history of programs that have been conducted in the past, and programs that are presently ongoing, that address your chosen issue. This historical research should focus on the effectiveness of current and past programs both locally, nationally, and (in some cases) in other cities, states, or countries.
 Guidance from your contact organization is crucial during this research phase. Ask to meet and talk with someone who can share all they know on the matter and also direct you to relevant articles or other people with which to communicate. Try to get as many expert opinions as possible.

Research paper guidelines

Page range: 6-8 (of text), double-spaced, 10-12 point font size
Paper should also include relevant tables and/or figures and a formal bibliography.
All references must be properly cited, using either foot- or end-notes or

parenthetical documentation [e.g.,: (author's last name, pg.#) for books, or (author's last name, year of publication) for journal articles]

Listed below are some sources you should consult and cite in your research paper (unless you and I discuss and decide one or more do not apply to your particular project):

• Personal communication (e.g., with contact person and other professionals in the field)
• Primary literature‡ (e.g., in scientific or educational journals, historical documents, etc.)
• Review articles (e.g., in scientific or educational journals, newspapers, or magazines)
• Books (e.g., science textbook, historical book, conservation-related book, etc.)

‡Primary literature is text that reports that research group's (authors') actual results from a study that they conducted (i.e., the first or "primary" publishing of those results)