Class Summary PHI 169 – September 17, 2018

Since this was officially our second day of class the professor reintroduced to the new students the Index card, the class syllabus and the assignments that were due today. The topics of today's class was:

A. Stage 1 – Investigative question
   1. Pick a topic that we are interested in.
   2. It needs to be an event, SPECIFIC to date and time, that we don't know the answer to, but does have an answer.
   3. Controversial – different viewpoints how who or what the right answer is.

Some students gave the following examples:
   a. What caused the collapse of the Twin Towers?
   b. What caused the water crisis in Flint, Michigan?
   c. What caused the disappearance of Malaysian Flight 370?
   d. Criminal Cases: Who killed X?

One student talked about the topic of the Earth being flat. This topic was to broad not giving specific event and time. It was suggested that he break it down and be more specific of the detail of space and time or change his topic.

The investigative question has to be SPECIFIC to an event with date, time, who, when, how and where. It could have more than one answer/Hypotheses. Which brings us to our next topic.

B. Stage 2 – Hypotheses
   1. It is the answer.
   2. You can have more than one hypotheses as long as they DO NOT OVERLAP.
   3. At least one of the hypotheses has to be true.

For examples:
   a. Twin Towers:
      H1 Impact/Collison of the Plane.
      H2 Bombs inside/Not the collison
      H3 Both plane and bombs
   b. Criminal Case:
      H1 Suspect #1
      H2 Suspect #2
      H3 Suspect #3
   c. Flight 370:
      H1 Mechanical error
      H2 Terrorists Attack
      H3 Murder/Suicide

The professor then went through the class to go over the assignment with the students to prepare for the next topic of:

      C.   Stage 3 – Evidence
1. The collecting of the evidence is to make sure the information supports the hypothesis.
2. Each hypotheses has to have two pieces of evidence in its favor.
3. Documents, testimonials, lab reports, maps, graphs, pictures and videos must come from RELIABLE sources.

Today's class was beneficial giving the students an overall review of assignments 1 and 2, the Q & A with the professor to have an understanding of the project. The discussion of Stage 3, collecting the evidence on how to do research of data and reliable sources.