This project is designed to acclimate you to conducting independent research and to familiarize you with resources available through the library. Since this project coincides with our third unit, part of which will cover the AIDS crisis in the United States, we will all be researching and exploring the same central question, “How did Milwaukee respond to the AIDS crisis?” To answer this question, we will visit the library together, and then you will return to complete your research and produce a 4-5 page paper explaining your findings and conclusions.

**Step One: Visiting the archives (April 5)**
On Thursday, April 5, we will meet with Heidi Anoszko from the library archives department. We will learn about the kind of materials the archives has to offer and how to work with these materials in a project of this nature. Heidi will lead us in an activity that will model what your research project will be.

**Step Two: Conduct research (April 5-May 11)**
Go to the library course guide for our class: [http://guides.library.uwm.edu/lgbt200](http://guides.library.uwm.edu/lgbt200)
Then select the tab for AIDS Activism. You will see that there are four collections listed. Your project must draw on two primary documents from two different organizations. Here are a few suggestions for ways to narrow the scope of your project:

- How did the programs and services of these groups differ, and why might that have been?
- How did these groups respond to the development and availability of new treatments and drugs?
- What challenges did these organizations face as a result of social perceptions of HIV/AIDS?
- What kind of survival tips or messages to people with HIV/AIDS did these groups have? How did those messages differ?
- Who were the major players involved in two of the organizations featured here? How might their experiences and identities have shaped the group’s approach to AIDS activism?

The most important thing you can do is be open-minded. A good researcher begins with questions and doesn’t enter the archives looking for the “magic bullet” that will prove what they wanted to say in the first place. Find some documents that are interesting to you, and let them guide the direction of your paper.

**Step Three: Write it up! (May 11 by 11:59 pm)**
Write a 4-5 page paper explaining what you researched, what you found, and what conclusions you might draw from your findings. Depending on your project, you may include images, copies of original texts, etc. – but these should be in addition to the 4-5 pages of writing. Your paper should include a list of primary and secondary sources used, following MLA, Chicago, or APA style guides.

If you need some help structuring your paper, you can follow this outline:

**Introduction** – Describe what your project is, what you researched, and why you researched it or what you wanted to learn from this research
Describe what you found – Offer a short summary of your findings. Be sure to include key dates, terms, etc. Give historical context when necessary. (Ex: A project about NBC in 1985 should explain that NBC is the National Broadcasting Corporation, which began in 1939.)

Conclusions – Draw some conclusions based on your findings that answer your specific research sub-question. Do your findings indicate that AIDS activism in Milwaukee in the 1990s was more or less the same across activist groups, or was there a range of responses to the AIDS crisis? Caveat: Don’t try to draw conclusions beyond the scope of your project. (Ex: If you looked at materials from ARCW and BESTD, don’t make assumptions about mainstream, non-LGBT-centered medical treatments and testing.)

Your paper is due to the D2L dropbox no later than Friday, May 11, at 11:59 pm. After this time, the dropbox will close, and any student without a submission will automatically receive a zero on the assignment.