To: Rebecca Agosta

From: Cassy Devaney

Date: February 13, 2014

Subject: College Athletes

Initial Inquiry Subject:

I would like to research how college athletes are constructed through participation on campus and how it became their identity, and what does it mean to be a college athlete and how it affects them as a college student. I am interested in the athlete’s identity and their sport. How they see themselves and how others see them. I would like to focus on college athletes on scholarships versus walk ons. How does this identity affect them and why? I know these people are committed, hard workers, and have a strong dedication and love for their sport. I know they have specific schedules and equipment/uniform. What I know is guiding my research plan because I have a starting point and interest that will help me. I am interested in this topic because I was almost a college athlete and that could have been my identity.

Methods:

Although I don’t have a set plan yet, I think I will observe, interview, and research articles online. I will go to practices and games and interview athletes and maybe even outsiders. I think researching other people’s research will help too and be interesting to add into my paper. I think a survey might be a good idea. I could hand out a survey to different college sports teams and ask questions based on if they are on scholarship or if they are a walk on.

Questions:

1. What characteristics define a college athlete?
2. How has college sports and college athlete’s changed/developed though history?
3. What is a college athlete like?
4. How does it affect their social life?
5. How does it affect their schoolwork?
6. Why do they choose to be one? Or did they choose?
7. Who is the most influential?
8. How does one balance everything?
9. How does a college athlete on scholarship behave/act versus a walk on?
10. Do college athletes on scholarship have different roles/prestige?
11. What are the personality traits of an athlete on scholarship? A walk on?