***Developing and Supporting a Thesis***

***Performance Assessment Worksheet***

***Part I***

**Part I—Picking a thesis topic:**

Since beginning this unit, we have studied the effects of poverty on adults and children. No one wakes up in the morning and actively decides to be poor. Nevertheless, the number of individuals in this country who live below the poverty line is actually increasing. After reading The Glass Castle, it should be apparent that the only way out of poverty for most children is education. Two of the three Walls children were able to rise above their humble upbringing because they saw education as a ticket out of Welch. However, education is only part of the equation. As we saw in the 20/20 special Children of the Mountains, poor nutrition, an emotionally unstable home-life, and a lack of financial opportunity can doom an individual before he/she reaches adulthood.  Below you will find a list of research topics. Highlight the topic on which you would like to write.

* Children who are raised in poverty are more likely to suffer from Type II diabetes, obesity, and other health related issues (i.e. toothlessness) than children who are not raised in poverty.
* Those who only make minimum wage can find themselves in a never-ending cycle of debt because of predatory lending practices (i.e. rent-to-own, payday loans, privately-owned probationary services).
* The poor are particularly vulnerable to poor nutrition because the cheapest foods are also the unhealthiest foods. Foods containing government subsidized commodities like corn are cheaper than healthier options like broccoli or spinach.
* Though a hundred years has passed since Upton Sinclair wrote The Jungle, life in the meat-packing industry is still dangerous and jobs are often given to immigrants who cannot voice objections because of their legal status.

**Part II—Supporting your topic**You will need to do some research in order to support your topic. As a researcher, it is imperative that you evaluate the reliability of your sources. Below you will find a list of evaluation criterion.

* The source is peer reviewed. (Scholarly journals like Science, Nature, or JAMA)
* The source is from a website that has one of the following url suffixes: .org/.edu/.gov
* The source is from a reliable periodical (Time, Newsweek, National Geographic).    
    
  Take some time to search the web. Find at least three reliable online articles to support your topic. Then cut and paste the information into the space provided.  
    
  URL One:   
    
    
    
  URL Two:

URL Three:   
  
  
**Part III—Avoiding Plagiarism by paraphrasing**

Plagiarism is the taking of someone else’s work or ideas and passing them off as your own. If there is a mortal sin in higher education, plagiarism is it. Research writing necessitates using the work of others to build upon a thesis. However, credit MUST be given to those whose work we are using to support our thesis. The first step to avoiding plagiarism is to paraphrase the words of the original author.  
  
Find a passage from one of your electronic sources in Part II of this worksheet that you think will support your thesis topic. Cut and paste it below. Change the color of the font to blue.

Now restate the passage in your own words. Change the color of the font to green.  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Put this document into your Performance Assessment folder and await approval from your instructor before you continue.