

English III Research Paper Guidelines

This assignment is to write a **formal research paper on the topic you chose from the approved topics**. To report the results of your research you will use the proper **MLA** format for all areas of your paper. This includes but is not limited to font, type, margins, headings, spacings, page numbers, citations in the document and the bibliography and works cited page. There will be **NO ILLUSTRATIONS**. **Papers will be double-spaced and typed in Times New Roman, 12 font**. It will be a minimum of 750 to 1,200 words. Keep in mind that a research paper

- ✓ Presents factual information about the topic
- ✓ Presents information from several sources
- ✓ Tells the reader the source of the information

Do NOT use the words “I” or “you” in this paper. Do not use statements that refer to the paper itself (example: “This paper will focus on ...”)

The following supplies are needed for this research paper.

- ✓ Index Cards – (3x5 and 4x6)
- ✓ Manila envelope – large
- ✓ Flash Drive (strongly recommended)
- ✓ Highlighter
- ✓ Research binder
- ✓ Page dividers with tabs (8 pack)

Sources

You will need both a bibliography and a works-cited page. Your works cited page will have a minimum of **five** sources that must include: **(2) news articles from a newspaper, a magazine, or a news web-page, (1) .org source, and (2) of your own selections of a reliable source**. Your bibliography will have a minimum of **eight** sources, which include your five work-cited sources; the remaining sources may be your own selection of a reliable source. **A basic/general encyclopedia or dictionary MAY NOT be used in your work-cited sources, but MAY be used in your bibliography. You MAY NOT use Wikipedia**, for this is not a reliable source. You **must turn in print-outs or copies of these sources** with your research packet (and again with the final paper) and the information you use in your paper must be **highlighted** on these print-outs.

Quotes

A minimum of **five direct quotes** must be used within your paper and must be documented in the paper by using **parenthetical citations**. (See sample page on web site.) Quotes must not be general information but must be **specific facts or opinions** that support your points. **A quote should contribute something to your paper that your own words cannot**. They should flow smoothly into the existing flow of words, not be just “stuck in.” Also, quotes support **your points**. Don’t make the paper just a series of quoted material.

Attendance/Deadlines

We will be in the library on numerous days. If you are absent on these days, you must visit the library **on your time** and make up the work. **NO WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED LATE!** Turn in the assignments early if you are planning on being absent.

The process portion of the research paper consists of different assignments, each with its own “**due date.**” Each assignment is worth points. IF an assignment is late, it automatically is worth **zero** points, but it **must be turned in** to me. If part of the process is not turned in then you will lose points from the final overall research paper grade. While the paper is in the process stage each part **must be turned in a manila envelope with a clasp with your name and class period on the outside.** All of the following **must be typed** with the exception of the source/note cards. **Each assignment is considered late if not turned in at the beginning of your class on the day that it is due.**

Each phase of the research process will be explained/modeled in class during “Research Prep Days.” You must be present in class and ready to listen.

Note on Plagiarism

Any student who plagiarizes any part of the research paper will receive a zero and be disciplined accordingly.

The following process-related assignments are due on the dates shown below:

- ✓ Purpose Statement – _____
- ✓ Working Bibliography – _____
- ✓ Banded cards – 8 [3 X 5] source cards and 16 [4 X 6] notecards and 4 annotated articles – _____
*

- ✓ Sentence Outline with thesis underlined – _____
- ✓ 750 – 1,200 rough draft typed with works cited and bibliography – _____
- ✓ **Final draft** – _____ †

These dates are subject to change.

* 8 3x5 source cards should include all sources that will be listed on your bibliography; 4 annotated articles should include your internet articles; amount of articles subject to change

† Final Draft will include all gathered information to be turned in a predetermined format to be reviewed at a later date.