

# Sophomore Research Paper

## I. Selecting a Topic [Due 2.3.12] \*5 Pts.

Your research paper assignment is centered around an influential person. You will be required to make a specific claim regarding an influential person and prove it is true by using research to support your opinion. Every paper will need to be a minimum of 3-5 pages. (Times New Roman 12pt.) You will be required to conduct extensive research on the issue you select, so you should verify that there is a sufficient amount of articles and research available on the topic you choose before making your decision official.

An interesting starting point for exploring common issues can be found through the Shawnee Media Center research database. Ebsco's Student Research Center has some excellent searchable issues.

\*All research topics must be finalized by Friday, February 3rd. Remember, Friday is the latest that you can select your topic, but it would be very useful for you to decide as soon as possible to most effectively utilize your research. The only way that requests will be considered is via e-mail. All requests should be sent to [jposch@lrhsd.org](mailto:jposch@lrhsd.org), I will respond within 24 hours to inform whether your request has been approved or denied. No more than two students may write about any individual issue and topics will be approved on a first come, first serve basis.

## II. Thesis statements [Due 2.10.12] \*10 Pts.

Your thesis statement is a sentence that embodies the argument that your entire paper will need to focus on. Your thesis statement should be clearly stated in your Introductory paragraph as the last sentence.

Because this will be your first research paper, your thesis statement will need to be approved by me before you begin writing your rough draft. A working version of your thesis is due at the beginning of class on 2.13.12. The form to submit your thesis to me for approval is attached to this handout.

## III. Formatting

The research paper will need to be submitted to turnitin.com by the beginning of the school day it is due in class. If you do not have Microsoft word, you will need to take whatever steps are necessary to get your paper uploaded using our Shawnee computers no later than the regular due date.

All research papers must be submitted in Times New Roman Font, size 12 and double-spaced. There should not be any extra spaces between paragraphs. The purpose of indenting is to signify the start of a new paragraph, so an extra space simply wastes paper. Any papers or drafts submitted in any other format will be deleted from the database and lose 10 points for every day until the paper is submitted in the required format.

The minimum required length of the paper is 3 pages. Any papers that are less than three full pages will not receive any points for proper formatting when graded. The maximum length of your paper is 5 pages. Any papers over five pages will not receive any points for proper formatting when graded.

The page requirement does not include the cover page, which is required, or the annotated works cited. The length of the works cited will vary, but should be about 1-2 pages.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. Annotated Works Cited [Due 2.28.12] \*40 pts.

Every research paper is required to include an annotated bibliography. An annotated works cited is a list of the research sources used and cited in your paper that includes a brief paragraph for each source explaining the source and how it relates to your paper. You must select and use 5-10 sources to support the opinion you're arguing in your research paper. Important: Encyclopedia entries are not considered acceptable sources for my research paper. You should avoid all Media Center Databases that are affiliated with facts on file or encyclopedias.

It is essential that the sources you select are credible. By credible, I mean that the information they're providing you can be counted on as reliable. Articles from any major news organizations are safe. (The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Time Magazine, etc.) An article found on wikipedia or unicorns.com is probably not reliable. I will provide you with a source evaluation sheet which you should complete and submit to me if there are any sources you're unsure of. I will visit the site in question and provide you with an answer within 24 hours. Quality of sources will be a category in the rubric used to assess your final research paper, so using good sources is essential.

Once the annotated works cited is submitted, no additional sources may be added. The annotated works cited is the second step in your research paper and what you should focus on after your thesis is approved. It will be the first major part of your paper that you'll submit. Grading rubrics for the annotated bibliography will be provided after our research in the Media Center.

#### V. Rough Draft [Due 3.12.12] \*40 pts.

The rough draft must be a minimum of 3 full pages and properly formatted. The rough draft will be used for peer review. Revising your rough draft to make it better will be an essential part of writing a successful research paper.

#### VI. Final Draft [Due 3.26.12] \*100 pts.

The final draft of the research paper is due on Monday, March 26th. Your paper Absolutely no late papers will be accepted. Grading rubrics for the final draft of the research paper will be distributed after our research time in the Media Center. \*The final draft of the research paper will counted as a part of your 4th marking period grade.