

Research Paper – Pro/Con Topics

Name _____ Date _____ Mod _____

REMINDER: You **must** complete this research paper to pass this class. **NO Exceptions!**

Topic: The topic for your research paper will be defending ONE side of a Pro/Con Issue. You must choose which side of the issue to defend and research that side of the topic. You must use resources to support your side of the issue. You will have THREE main points to support your side of the issue.

Research: You are required to look up five different sources. You must use four different sources in your paper. You may use a source more than once in your paper, but it will only count as one source toward the required four sources.

Works Cited: You will take notes on your own paper / notecards. You must take at least three-fourths (3/4) page of notes per source for it to count as a source. You must cite each source correctly. See “Bibliography Citation Page” for more details on citing sources. Each source notes and citation must be checked to receive credit.

Citations: You will be using MLA format to write this research paper, for taking notes, and citing your sources. You must cite direct quotations, specific details, unique ideas or opinions, and material you have paraphrased. While taking notes you must cite each note/detail using MLA format while researching. You must include the author’s last name and page number.

Plagiarism: If you have questions about citations please ask, DO NOT guess. If you fail to cite something it is plagiarism. Plagiarism is cheating. You will receive a zero on the project and will be turned into the office and it will go on your permanent record.

Common Knowledge: While writing research papers it is not required to cite every fact and detail you read. Common Knowledge means that most people probably know the fact or detail about the topic. You do not need to cite this information; however, you **must** put this information into your own thoughts and words. If you steal exact wording, exact phrases, ideas or opinions it is plagiarism. **If it appears in 3 sources – it is common knowledge. You must cite exact wording/phrases, statistics, opinions and ideas that only appear in one source.**

Thesis: A thesis is a sentence explaining what your paper is about. This sentence is the last sentence of your introduction paragraph. Your thesis will say which side of the issue you are going to defend.

Outline: In order to produce a well written research paper it must be organized. In order to do so you must make an outline for your paper. You must identify broad topics that you will discuss and then arrange and organize specific information and details into each of those broad topics.

Paper: Some guidelines for writing your research paper include the following:

1. Three to five (3-5) pages (not including Work Cited or Title pages)
2. typed in Times New Roman, 12 point font
3. double-spaced
4. one-inch margins
5. Works Cited page in alphabetical order, not numbered
6. Page number using last name in the upper right hand corner, except for the title page

** Rubric will be provided for paper prior to starting outline

** See pages 300-308 of *Writers Inc.* for an example.

Due Dates & Points Break Down

Description	Class Date	Due Date	Points
Topic (homework)	10/25	10/30	10
Source #1 Notes	11/5	11/6	10
Source #2 Notes	11/6	11/7	10
Source #3 Notes	11/7	11/8	10
Source #4 Notes	11/8	11/11	10
Source #5 Notes	11/8	11/11	10
Bibliography Citation Page	11/5	11/11	25
Outline	11/12	11/13	20
Rough Draft	11/14	11/15	20
Final Draft (Rubric)	10/25	11/25	75
TOTAL			200

**Research Papers will be deducted 10% each day it is late.
BIG DEMONS violations will receive 10% deduction.**

+10 BONUS — if turned in by 11/19

+ 5 BONUS — if turned in by 11/21

+ 3 BONUS — if turned in by 11/22

DUE BY 11/25 (-10% per day for each day it is LATE)