

ENGLISH CLASS RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS

All information on how to do the research paper is in the Grammar book. These elements will be discussed in class, but the information is in the book to help with any questions. The formatting instructions required for the paper is also in the Grammar books. **The research paper needs to be persuasive;** this is not merely an informative paper.

TOPICS

9th-10th Grade – Modern controversial topic: World vs. Christian perspective (gun control; abortion; prayer in school; diet and exercise; animal’s rights; vegan or vegetarian; death with dignity; clothing sizes or fashions)

11th-12th Grade – Career Opportunity: You will be choosing a career to research that you could see yourself pursuing in college. While choosing this career, keep in mind that you will be choosing two people to interview that generally and specifically have this career.

DUE DATES

February 10 (Wednesday) – Choose topic

February 13 (Monday) – Five bibliography cards (one source must be a book and one an interview)

February 17 (Friday) – Topical Outline (Thesis must be written at the top of the outline)

February 20 (Monday) – Sentence Outline

February 27 (Monday) – Notecards (9th-10th Grade-30/ 11th-12th Grade-50)

March 3 (Friday) – First Draft (only the report itself)

March 6 (Monday) – Second Draft (try to format the paper correctly and include title page and works cited)

March 8 (Wednesday) – Final Draft (formatting should be perfected and include title page and works cited)

REQUIREMENTS

9th-10th Grade – 1,000 words (your paper must include at least three quotations)

11th-12th Grade – 1,500 words (your paper must include at least four quotations)

The above due dates are the days that I will be checking for the completion of the work, but the different steps of the research paper may be done early, interchangeably, or simultaneously. Please let me know if there are any other questions.

11-12

*After you choose your topic, you will need to choose two people to interview. One person will be someone who is generally in the field that you are interested in, and the other person will have that specific job.

-Let's say that you are interested in becoming a high school gym teacher. For your general interview, you could pick someone that is in any teaching field or any athletic field. For your specific interview, you will need to find a high school gym teacher.

-If you do not know anyone in those specific fields, you may have to send out emails and make some phone calls to find what you are looking for. Ask for your parent's help.

-Ask questions that will help you learn more about the career that you are researching. Ask them why they chose that career, what did it take to get their degree, what college did they go to, do they wish they would have done something else or gotten their degree a different way. These are just questions to get you thinking.

*You will get bonus points and an excused half day off of school if you can visit that person at their work and see them in action at their job.

*You will need to get information from secular colleges and Christian colleges on what it would cost, what classes you would need to take, how long it would take, what your major would be, what extra-curricular would need to be done, what scholarships could be achieved etc. to pursue this career.

*You will also need to find two places that you could be employed at with this career. Ask them what a person needs to have to get a career at this place, what they are looking for in an employee, what is the starting salary, etc.

*You may utilize your parents help in tracking people down to interview, or finding businesses or colleges to contact, but you are to do the contacting personally. Your parents may not interview people for you. Remember that this is YOUR research paper. To get credit, YOU MUST DO THE WORK!

9-10

*You will need to find two adults to interview that represent the opinions expressed in your paper (for example if you are doing your paper on abortion, find someone who works at a pregnancy crisis center; if you are doing your paper on vegans and vegetarians, find a vegan or vegetarian.) Remember that you may need to do research to find people. These adults do not have to be people that you know personally. One of these adults cannot be a family member.

*Your topic needs to express a Biblical view point, and your parents must approve it.

*Make sure to choose a topic that you will be able to research easily. If you choose a topic that is vague or obscure, you will have a hard time finding enough information to complete your paper.

*You may utilize your parents help in tracking people to interview, but you are to do the contacting personally. Your parents may not interview people for you. Remember that this is YOUR research paper. To get credit, YOU MUST DO THE WORK!

THINGS TO REMEMBER AS YOU WRITE YOUR RESEARCH PAPER:

- Your notecards should include where the information came from, what kind of information it is, and where this information would be located in your outline. (Do not plagiarize even on your notecards.)
- Your paper should include an introduction, two to three paragraphs explaining your main points, and a conclusion (Typically, four to five paragraphs total).
- Your thesis statement will state the topic and main ideas of your paper in one sentence. It should be located at the end of your introduction.
- Your thesis statement will be restated (in different words) at the first sentence of your conclusion.
- Your middle paragraphs that state your main points should begin with a topic sentence that reflects your thesis.
- Use transitions in your topic sentences to achieve coherence (causing your paper to flow because it is in such a good order that it is easy to read and understand).
- For examples, refer to the research paper section in your grammar book.
- A quotation should be cited by using parenthetical citations (Author's last name, page #) after the quotation. If the author is not available, use the title of the piece.
- When you quote someone else, remember to give them credit for their words. Follow the standard, introduce, write, cite. (When introducing someone remember to state why they are a credible source to back up your topic)
- Plagiarism (stating thoughts, words, or sentence structure of another as your own) in any form is prohibited and could result in demerits and deducted credit from your paper.
- Using standard information that could be found in any book is not plagiarism as long as you put the information in your own words and sentence structure. When you are stating a thought or opinion of another, then you must cite your source.
- Use Formal Standard English:
 - *No first (I, me, my, mine, we, our, ours, us) or second (you, your, yours) person pronouns.
 - *No contractions.
 - *Minimal use of linking verbs (am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been).
 - *No abbreviations.
 - *Spell out numbers of one or two words. Use digits for numbers that are three words or more (see your grammar book for exceptions).
 - *Check your paper for unity and coherence.
 - *USE CORRECT GRAMMAR!