

Overview and Requirements for English 10 Honors Research Paper:

Research Paper Goals

- (1) to learn and practice the art of persuasion
- (2) to understand how to create a technically correct research paper

Overview

You are welcome to choose your own topic for your research paper pending the approval of your teacher. Since the final paper must be persuasive, not just informative, it must revolve around a controlling idea (thesis) that takes a stand or **expresses an opinion that others can argue against**. You must be able to back up your position with support drawn from a variety of sources of information: print, electronic, and other types of sources. Lastly, it must be school appropriate.

Your topic must be one of significance to humankind in an important or serious and non-sensational way. For example, the need for more skateboarding parks, or the best way to stop bullying in schools would be promising topics, but the existence of Bigfoot or speculation over whether Tupac is really dead would not be acceptable.

Requirements

6 or more research logs with the citation information as well as your notes

6 or more sources Internet sources from the web are allowed if the website ends in .edu, .gov, or .org. You need to use at least one book, periodical or article from databases that include national and state publications. All websites must be reliable sources. Wikipedia is **NOT** permitted.

a first draft of the paper

a final word-processed, double spaced text 4-6 pages in 12 point font Times New Roman) that has been significantly edited from the first draft.

3 or more sources actively cited within the text.

a correctly done Works Cited page.

Submission

Final turn-in of your Research Paper: You will need to turn in the whole project even though each step (research logs, rough draft, and works cited page) will be graded on the specified date. Also note that each piece of the research paper must be completed, turned-in, graded and returned before the next step may be done.

LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. YOUR PAPER MUST ARRIVE HERE WITHOUT YOU.

Assessment

Questions to ask yourself:

Are your parenthetical citations done correctly? *In MLA format

Are there at least 5 quotes cited in you paper, from at least 3 different sources?

Is your Works Cited Page done correctly and matches your parenthetical citations?

It is extremely important that you stay on task and use your time wisely. You have approximately 2 weeks to complete this project. Make the most of your time and get your work done. Research is an individual endeavor, not a social gathering. While the library here has a lot of materials, you may not be able to find everything on every topic. If you are not finding what you want, you may have to change your topic to something you know you can find more information about. If you still want to explore a topic, and our library does not have the information, it is up to you to find the information from another library. Area libraries include: Pinckney, Hamburg, Brighton, Whitmore Lake, South Lyon, Ann Arbor.

Advice, Directions, Warnings

1. **Stick to your topic.** You may not jump to another topic without the permission of the instructor. There is no topic for which you can say, "I can't find enough information on it." That is not an acceptable excuse.
2. **Use your research time.** Don't waste your time in the library/class. Don't expect an extension if you happen to be absent and miss a library day. Yes, you will probably have to visit other libraries on your own time in the evenings. **This is a very important project; treat it like one!**
3. **Research Logs.** You need at *least* 6 sources. Remember that three sources must be **actively cited in your research paper**. On your logs, you will keep track of the information you are actually going to put in the body of your paper.
4. **Thesis Statement.** This is the cornerstone of your persuasive argument, the main point of your paper. We will begin working on them together in class.
5. **Works Cited.** The works cited page will be created from your research logs. There is a minimum of 6 sources in the Works Cited section.
6. **Rough Draft.** This must be typed. You should save it so that you can go back and make changes for the final paper.
7. **Final Draft.** This too, must be typed. It should be around 4-6 pages in length and the body must follow a persuasive framework. **It must include at least 5 in-text citations, using a minimum of three different sources.**
8. **Typing.** The rough draft and final draft must be typed.
9. **Avoid Lame Excuses.** "My computer crashed" or "My printer ran out of ink" are a waste of your time and mine. I will grant no extension. Don't wait until the last minute. And remember, you **MUST** complete a research paper in order to pass the marking period.