

Major Research Project Assignment

Name: _____ Draft Due: _____

Class Section/Time: _____ Draft Due: _____

Project Proposal: _____ Draft Due: _____

Outline due: _____ Final Draft Due: _____

Presentation: _____

Intro. Draft Due: _____ Length: 8-12 pages double-spaced

Please **read** carefully, complete all **exercises**, **pay attention** in class, and work with your **instructor** and **peers** to develop a **finished research paper**. Ask questions and visit your instructor with any questions as we work through the paper writing process. You are expected to have a minimum level of writing proficiency based on the prerequisites for this course. See the scoring sheet attached to this assignment.

You should have a myriad ideas flying around in your head as we look into the various aspects of the subject for this course. Hopefully one of the ideas that we have discussed or read about or that you know is related to our subject is of some personal interest to you. (It's usually easier to write about something that you have a personal interest in than not.)

1. Do some **prewriting** (brainstorming, clustering, journal writing, etc.) to get your thoughts flowing with regard to a **topic** for your paper. Return to prewriting whenever needed. Let your research guide your thesis and vice versa as you are developing a topic.
2. After doing some general topic prewriting, work with more prewriting techniques to **narrow your topic** so that you can adequately cover it in the size of paper that is required. Generally speaking, the narrower the topic the better. Again, let your research guide you.
3. Develop a **working thesis statement** and begin doing some specific **research** and **collection of information** to support that thesis. By the date above, hand in a Research Project Proposal in proper form.
4. Continue to search for information supporting your thesis and **begin drafting an outline and a rough draft** of your research paper. You need to **show mastery** of all of the skills that we have been developing in this class as well as demonstrating your ability to **communicate your ideas and those of others clearly through your writing. Details** with regard to documentation and synthesis of ideas are of great importance. Due dates for the outline and rough draft will be given at a future time.

5. Through personal diligence, instructor conferences, and peer evaluation you will develop a **very finished draft** of the Major Research Project to be handed in on the date above.

6. Hand in the final draft in a **paper pocket folder including a formal outline, the text of the paper, and a Works Cited page**. You need to have cited at least **8 sources** which are properly documented on a Works Cited page. You need to cite and use information from at least: **1 book, 1 scholarly journal article, 1 newspaper or magazine article, 1 Internet site**, and the remaining sources are your choice. You may only use **one Greenhaven Press** article as a source. Remember to check credentials of authors and reputations of sources. See me ahead of time with questions about MLA documentation. (See the complete MLA Handbook in the library or MLA resource Internet sites if needed.)

7. You will do a 5-10 minute **oral presentation** of your project on an assigned date. Collect any visual, audio, or other aids **ahead of time**. You need to let me know **at least the day before** your presentation if you need an overhead projector, a VCR and TV, or any other special equipment. You should not just read your paper to the class, but you should cover the major ideas. See me with specific questions or concerns.

Research Paper Scoring Sheet

(100 points possible: 25 points each category.)

Form and Appearance: ____

Notes:

- ___ Outline in proper form
- ___ Body in proper form
- ___ Notes and/or Appendix in proper form (If included)
- ___ Works Cited page in proper form
- ___ Pagination in proper form

Citation of Sources and Research: ____

Notes:

- ___ Parenthetical and In-Text citations in correct form
- ___ Works Cited citations in correct form
- ___ All works cited used as sources

___ Adequate number and types of sources used

Topic and Thesis: ___

Notes:

___ Topic well chosen

___ Focus remains on topic

___ Thesis guides the paper at all times

___ Thesis states a clear position

___ Thesis is an issue

___ All issues are dealt with

___ All points are supported with evidence

___ Counterarguments with Rebuttals or Concessions are clearly and fairly presented

Paper: ___

Notes:

___ Paper is informative, readable, and interesting

___ You make your own points blending research with your ideas

___ Organization is clear

___ Paper is free of distracting errors

___ Punctuation

___ Spelling

___ Proofreading

___ Paper meets length requirement