

Short Research Project Assignment

Name: _____ Draft Due: _____

Class Section/Time: _____ Draft Due: _____

Project Proposal: _____ Draft Due: _____

Draft Outline due: _____ Final Draft Due: _____

Draft Due: _____ Length: 4-8 pages double spaced (See
"Typing Guidelines" and handbook.)

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 confusions 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**.

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. Remember, the only source that you may use for this short paper is the Opposing Viewpoints text, so your topic needs to be related to articles that **we have, or have not**, read from the text.

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. Write a clear statement of your topic.

3. Develop a **working thesis statement** and begin doing some specific **research and collection of information** to support that thesis. Create a **Project Proposal** according to the assignment sheet which will be handed out on a future date.

4. After handing in a Project Proposal and Informal Project Outline, continue to search for information, recording it on “notecards,” which supports your thesis and **begin drafting a rough draft** of your research paper. You need to **show mastery** of all 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. Use a **minimum of four source articles**. You may use one source outside the Opposing Viewpoints text, but that source should not be “overused.” See due dates above.

5. Through personal diligence, instructor conferences, and peer evaluation you will develop a **very finished draft** of the short research paper to be handed in on the date above. Submit the finished draft with a formal outline in one pocket of a pocket folder with any required rough drafts and workshop sheets in the other pocket.

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