Research Syllabus

(This essay is worth 200 points. Late Papers will not be accepted)

The research paper must be a minimum of 2,000 words plus a completed Works Cited page. Anything less than 2,000 words will not be accepted. The research paper must follow the updated MLA format. See my blog and all other handouts that were given in class. I will not accept any paper written in any other format.

Argumentative Research Paper:

☐ Current Controversial Issue whereby pro and con sides can be researched.

Research Topic Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immigration Reform</th>
<th>Immunization</th>
<th>Body Image</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Wage</td>
<td>Lowering the drinking age</td>
<td>Trump Administration</td>
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<td>Legalizing Marijuana</td>
<td>Gay Equality</td>
<td>Censorship</td>
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<td>Racial Profiling</td>
<td>Prescription Medication</td>
<td>War</td>
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<td>Physician Assisted Suicide</td>
<td>National Anthem</td>
<td>Plastic Surgery</td>
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<td>Lap Band</td>
<td>Fast Food</td>
<td>GMOs</td>
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<td>Affordable Health Care</td>
<td>Self-driving Cars</td>
<td>Social Media</td>
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(All topics must be approved by the instructor. You may not write about: pornography, or abortion.)

Sources:

In a standard research paper there is generally one source per page. In this case, your research paper must have a minimum of 10 sources, three of which must be print sources.

• Two books
• Two periodical (newspaper, journal or magazine)
• Two from a reliable internet website
• Four of your choosing
Note: Wikipedia cannot be used as a source.

Research Paper Must Haves:

• Thesis statement—answers the question. It includes three elements to be discussed/proven in the body of the essay.
• Topic sentences
• Transitional words
• Proper Citation
• Hard Facts/Evidence
• Opposing View Guidelines:

DO NOT SUMMARIZE OR PARAPHRASE into your own essay without acknowledging your source and stating that you are summarizing or paraphrasing.

It is best to quote directly from the source.

How to quote—copy an author’s remarks exactly as they appear in a source, word for word and punctuation mark for punctuation mark, enclosing the borrowed words in quotation marks.

When to quote:

• Quote when a source’s wording or phrasing is so distinctive that a summary or paraphrase would diminish its impact.
• Quote when a source’s words—particularly those of a recognized expert on your subject—will lend authority to your presentation.
• Quote when an author’s words are so concise that paraphrasing would create a long, clumsy, or incoherent phrase or would change the meaning of the original.
• Quote when you expect to disagree with a source. Using a source’s exact words assures readers you are being fair.


AVOID THE DROP QUOTE SCENARIO. BE SURE TO BLEND THE QUOTE INTO THE REST OF THE PARAGRAPH: the interpretation of the evidence you presented in your argument.

What Is Plagiarism?
There are three types of plagiarism:

1. To buy and/or copy someone else’s paper and pass it off as your own;
2. To paraphrase and/or summarize in your own words someone else’s ideas and thoughts without giving the original author credit, and
3. To use a word of the original author’s in a summary or paraphrase without putting that word(s) in quotation marks and giving the original author credit.