English 101 Research Paper (200 points) Instructions Packet
Ms. Brown

Guidelines:
Every student expecting to pass English 101 will need to complete a strong research paper. This assignment gives students the opportunity to develop their research, analysis, and writing skills. The following guidelines must be adhered to when turning in the final assignment for a grade:

1. The homework for this research is due: ________________________________

2. The final research paper is due: ______________________________________

3. The length of the research paper must be no less than 5 pages and no more than 8. The Works Cited page counts as one page. Therefore, your essay must be no longer than 7 pages but must be a minimum of 4.

4. The research paper must follow the current MLA format and guidelines to receive a grade. Papers submitted with the wrong formatting will be returned with a zero, as the syllabus states.

5. The research paper must be written in an academic tone using a minimum of 3 sources for 3 different citations from the following options:
   a. A book source (printed or electronic)
   b. A periodical (printed or electronic; popular or peer reviewed)
   c. A film (DVD or online)
   d. An online video (such as YouTube)
   e. A tweet
   f. A personal interview (conducted by you, the researcher)
   g. A website (excluding Wikipedia)
   h. A reference (such an online encyclopedia)
   i. An electronic database

   Note: If you plan to use a different source I have not listed, you must clear your source by me, your instructor.

6. Late papers will not be accepted nor will research papers be accepted by email. These offenses will receive a zero for the assignment.

Grading:
Proper MLA research paper following the guidelines will be graded using the following rubric—

This essay is worth a total of 200 points. These points break down into the following components:

- An engaging introduction with a clear and explicit thesis (up to 25 points)
- Body paragraphs with strong support points that are the student’s ideas (up to 25 points)
• A satisfying conclusion (up to 25 points)
• At minimum of 3 quality in-text citations from reputable sources (up to 25 points)
• Clear organization of the essay including use of order of importance, chronological order, transitional expressions, etc. (up to 25 points)
• Effectively using a variety of appeals including logos, pathos, and ethos (up to 50 points)
• Clear sentence construction and without errors such as: misspelled words, run-ons, comma splices, fragments, punctuation errors, inconsistent capitalization, etc. (up to 25 points)

What is a research paper?
A research paper is a document in which you prove or defend a thesis with the opinions, ideas facts, and/or statements of others.

What is a thesis?
A thesis is a statement that must be proven with support. Do not confuse a thesis with a fact. For example: School shootings are on the rise in America. A thesis, instead, could be: Loose gun control laws are responsible for the increase of school shootings in America; therefore, it is imperative that we pass stricter regulations to help eradicate violence in our schools.

How do you write a research paper?
Choose a topic that interests you. In the beginning of your research paper process, your topic can be general. However, after you complete some research, you should be able to narrow your topic and perhaps develop a preliminary thesis. In choosing a suitable topic, ask yourself the following questions:

a. Is there enough material on my topic?
b. Do I have time to contact all the sources I need?
c. Will I be able to narrow this topic for the pages required?
d. Will I be able to develop a thesis?
e. Is this topic interesting enough to work on for the rest of the semester?

Now follow these suggested steps when writing a research paper:

1. Select a topic appropriate for the required page length. For example, your essay must be a minimum of 4 pages but a maximum of 7 pages. I would not pick a broad topic for this assignment. For example, I would not attempt to write a research paper about all sexual identities that exist. This would be too broad. Instead, you would want to limit your research to a specific one, such as transgender identity.
2. Research your topic. Read and learn about what information has been published, what ideas people argue for or against, and develop a sense of where you stand for the paper.
3. Develop a thesis.
4. Organize your research material.
5. Outline the essay and write a draft.
6. Organize your Works Cited page to reflect the research used in your research paper.
7. Revise and edit your research.
8. Type, proofread, and correct the paper. Submit in MLA format on the due date.
How do you select your own topic?
At this point in the semester, you have been responsible for reading various research essays in your textbook. If you do not know what your paper should be about, try picking one of the topics covered in the chapters you’ve read: celebrity culture, gun control laws, mental illness and health, sexual identity, voting procedures and rights, etc.

What information must be cited from your research?
When writing a research paper, you must cite all your sources. Failure to do so is theft of someone else’s work, and this is plagiarism. Direct quotations, paraphrases, and summaries must be cited.

You do not need to cite the following:

1. Well-known sayings do not require a citation. For example:
   a. Home is where the heart is.

2. Commonly known facts. For example:
   a. Sacramento is the capital of California.
   b. Shakespeare wrote Romeo and Juliet.

Plagiarism is when a writer borrows the ideas, thoughts, and words that belong to someone else without giving credit to the creator of that information. It is considered a serious violation of ethical behavior and academic honesty. Committing plagiarism results in a non-passing grade and may include expulsion from college with a permanent mark on your academic transcript from the campus. If you keep a source log and keep your research organized, it will go a long way to help you avoid plagiarizing.

How do you research a topic?
As a 21st Century college student, you have the luxury of conducting your research online as well as physically in the library. We also have some of the best librarians in the world on our campus, and they will teach you how to conduct research using the library’s resources. Careful research is important since you must prove the thesis of your paper with facts, ideas, opinions, and/or statements of others. During the research of your term paper, two types of cards will be used: bibliography cards and note cards.

Handouts:
The following handouts will help you prepare, conduct, and organize your research. You may want to make photocopies from this packet or write the information using your own paper.
**Bibliographic Source Log Homework**

Name: _____________________________  Research Topic: ____________________________

Listed below is the information you will need for the most common research sources. This information is needed for your bibliography cards and for your Works Cited page.

Source Type (List whether it is a book, web page, film, etc.): ____________________________

Author(s), Speaker(s), or Actor(s) and Director(s) names – Last name, First name:
1. 
2. 
3. 

Title of book, periodical, essay, web page, film, or other source:

______________________________________________________________________________

City of publication: _________________

Publisher (full name of company): ____________________________________________

Copyright date (use the most recent one provided): _______________________

Volume: _______________________

Date of publication: _________________

URL <within brackets>: _________________________________________________________

Printed or electronic page(s): _________________

Quote borrowed:

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