RESEARCH PROJECT

DUE DATES:

Project Proposal (25 points): ______________
Annotated Bibliography (50 points): ______________
Student Conference and Prewriting (25 points): ____________
Final Draft Due (150 points): ______________

Do NOT wait to begin your research—start early and be thorough.

Specs

- Suggested length: between 7 and 8 pages, 12pt. Times New Roman font, MLA format
- Works cited page(s), properly formatted (not included in page length)
- Minimum of 8 sources, only 3 of which can be Internet or Electronic.
- Typed, double-spaced, and STAPLED

If your paper fails to meet any of the above requirements, I will not accept it.

Your final paper for the semester will include research, analysis, and evaluation. You will first use outside materials to explore your subject. After you’ve found out the facts and opinions regarding your subject, you will analyze the information. You will need to break your research down into specific areas and examine each area carefully before making an evaluation.

RESEARCH
You will research a subject first presented in Schlosser’s Fast Food Nation. The subject is up to you, but should be one first presented in his book. Examples might be corporate food production, GMO’s, fast food worker safety, the global market for fast food, and on. Your research should be well documented and organized in an annotated bibliography.

ANALYSIS
Understanding how your subject works and why it occurs is central to your research paper. This analysis will require your best research and organization of ideas to clearly describe and understand the issues surrounding your subject. You will use research to support your analysis. Outside sources must be cited and formatted in MLA documentation style.

EVALUATION
Making an evaluation is using facts, opinions, research, or other factors to create an informed judgment. This evaluation will be apparent in your thesis. Evaluation is your opinion after having researched and analyzed. However, DO NOT USE FIRST PERSON. I will not place any restrictions or expectations on your evaluation, other than it should be written well. Remember that it is your opinion, but should be based in your research and presented as objective truth—3rd person. It would be a waste of invested time and research to spend your final paragraphs with sentiments that are poorly expressed: “Diabetes in children is simply unavoidable,” or “Monsanto is evil!”
Possible Organization

I. Introduction & claim (one page to two pages at most, including your thesis statement)
II. Summary of disaster (possibly one to three pages)
III. Analysis (several discussion paragraphs, probably between two and four pages—blend with eval)
IV. Evaluation (an appropriate length of your design—keep in mind that you can blend analysis and eval)
V. Conclusion (providing context for your argument and recapping the thesis)

Take care in constructing your thesis statement. Remember that it needs to be an opinion, or assertion, that you defend throughout the rest of the paper. Due to the length of this paper, it may be longer than one sentence, but should not be longer than three.

“Where do I begin?”

Begin by completing the Fast Food Nation creative project (either the multimedia folder, or food experiment). Consult your journals and narrow your subject based on your personal interests. Good researchers often “follow their noses” and go after what interests them most. Don’t be afraid to propose a subject that may seem too narrow. It’s much easier to expand a subject than to narrow it once you’ve begun this process. There are many, many books and magazine/journal articles written about food. You should have no problem finding resources once you’re started. Visit our library, librarians, and our school databases. The only requirement is that it is well-known enough that you will be able to perform adequate research for an academic research paper. If you cannot find a subject that interests you enough to move forward, see me immediately in my office NEA 261 during scheduled hours, or email me. Your subject should be clear before the Annotated Bibliography is due.

Creating a Successful Research Project

As a whole, the project will show a rigorous exploration of your topic, organized into a coherent and crafted discussion.

Your essay will be thesis-driven and organized into a naturally flowing discussion. The thesis statement for your essay will be a solidly crafted, arguable claim (assertion).

Effective arguments will balance emotional appeal, logic, evidence, analysis, and research.

The project will bring together your discussion skills, your sense of focus, your ability to examine a controversial issue in a societal context, and your ability to appreciate and argue points-of-view that may not be your own.

Documentation of sources will be complete and in perfect MLA format.