

Research Paper Overview

The final project takes you through the various stages for developing an academic paper. This research project breaks into multiple sections allowing for specific revision points along the way.

FINAL PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The final goal of this project is to produce a well-written research paper based on a *cause-effect analysis* which demonstrates understanding of the following:

- how to analyze an audience and select an appropriate written communication style.
- how to prepare a research paper, utilizing a variety of sources.
- how to synthesize information from a variety of sources into one document.

SECTIONS

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 01. Declare topic of interest.* | <due 10.28.10, Thurs. |
| 02. Formally declare thesis statement | <due 11.02.10, Tuesday |
| Gather preliminary research; construct pre-writing of paper. | |
| 03. Create a tentative Works Cited Page. | <due 11.23.10, Tuesday |
| 04. Present seven page document: | <due 12.09.10, Thurs. |

FINAL DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Seven (7) full pages, *plus* an additional work cited page; appendix displaying graphs, illustrations, secondary evidence is optional.
- Entire paper is double spaced, following MLA standard template.

SOURCES

- 5 academic journals (database/ copies will be e-mailed to instructor)
- 3 books

*You have only one chance to change topic. After November 02 you need to begin gathering research.

THEME MUST COVER A SOCIAL ISSUE:

• *The paper itself will not be a persuasion piece but focus primarily on information.*

In other words, despite the fact these issues are controversial and despite the fact you will have an opinion on these topics, you are gathering information to show the development of the issue; you are not generating an editorial. Elements of persuasion are allowed of course due to nature of topic.

• Your sources of information must be non-biased and objective. Again, due to the nature of these issues, your sources may show a preference for one side of the debate.

If you use a biased source, you must identify the fact and stress why it is in paper.

• The end result of the paper may propose an opinion or a resolution on the topic, however the main goal is not to express your personal feelings or memories, but rather to show you can gather and present research material.

The following subjects are broad topics which will need to be narrowed down to a limited subject.

Alcohol / Binge drinking

Animal rights / Environmental Issues

Global warming / Oil Spill in Gulf

International Internet Censorship

Civil rights

Gender issues

Genetic engineering

Immigration / National Border Wall

Pledge of Allegiance / Prayer in schools

Racial profiling

Same sex unions vs. same sex marriages

Terrorism

Tobacco Issues / Public Smoking

Wild Card (*must be pre-approved*)

The following subjects are not allowed:

Abortion

Creationism vs. Evolution

Legalization of Marijuana

Gun Control