*Research Work Booklet – English 3201*



A research report

* Presents **factual** information about a topic from a **variety of sources**
* Develops a single thesis or **main idea**
* Has an **introduction, body,** and **conclusion**
* Presents ideas and information in an **organized** way
* Correctly **credits** the sources consulted
* Includes a **list of sources**

Name:

Homeroom:

Teacher:

Date:

**DUE DATE:**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

* Cover page with creative title
* Minimum 1200 words; Maximum 1500 words
* Use 12 font OR handwrite neatly in black or blue ink
* Double space and number pages (See MLA Notes)
* Minimum 6 sources (4 soft sources (Internet based) and 2 hard sources (books, magazines.)
* Minimum of two in-text quotations – one short and one long
* MLA In-text citations **(examples attached)**
* MLA “Works Cited” List. This section is mandatory. **(examples attached)**
* Students are advised to read pages 87-102 in *Reference Points* which outlines the process for writing research essays.
* **No** duotangs, binders, notebooks
* Please staple prior to submission
* I will be available to answer any questions during lunch or after school.
* Do not email me your research paper as you are responsible for the final papered production and submission of your work.

Step 1

Choosing and Limiting Your Topic

Choose a topic that you wish to investigate or analyze. You should also decide on your purpose and audience. To make the topic manageable, consider the following:

* Can this be researched in the time allotted?
* Am I interested in this topic?
* Can I make it interesting to my audience?
* Is there sufficient information available for me to complete some thought-provoking research? (*Reference Points*)

**Use the graphic organizers below to help you choose a topic.**

|  |
| --- |
| Sample K-W-L-H chart  |
| Topic? |
| **What I Know** | **What I Want to Find Out** | **What I Learned** | **How I Can Learn More** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Categories of Information I expect to use: |

OR



Consider some of the broader and more controversial topics to begin your research:

1. Jeffrey Archer
2. J.D. Salinger
3. John Knowles
4. any *Echoes* author
5. any other author
6. the real Macbeth
7. teenage mental health issues
8. brain research on how the adolescent brain is different
9. mental illnesses (a study of one mental illness including its symptoms, treatments, and famous individuals with the challenge)
10. John Lennon’s connection with *The Catcher in The Rye*; connection “Strawberry Fields”
11. The history of Central Park
12. Censorship of *The Catcher in the Rye*
13. what constituted conformity in the 1950s
14. boarding schools
15. free range kids versus helicopter parents
16. post WWII culture
17. Sophocles
18. early theatre
19. how an author’s world has shaped their writing
20. how music lyrics as poetry can tell the story of a decade (ex. take the 1940s,1980s,etc.)
21. Steven Spielberg's impact on modern society (or other director)
22. young men in WWII
23. how WWII inspires famous novels (maybe *Lord of the Flies* and *Lord of the Rings*)
24. Southern U.S. and civil rights movement
25. today’s sealing industry
26. English royalty
27. Scottish royalty
28. witchcraft
29. Dracula
30. Dracula spin offs – Elizabeth Bathory/ Vlad the Impaler/ folkloric beliefs of the time concerning the undead
31. Dracula's evolution in pop culture
32. J.R. Tolkien and his fictitious complex world
33. Shakespeare
34. spy genre
35. the Holocaust
36. a current human rights issue
37. history of Russia
38. Russian royalty
39. *Random Passage* – historical accuracies
40. cod moratorium
41. Elton John
42. the real Julius Caesar
43. gladiators and competition
44. politics of Rome during Caesar’s time
45. censorship
46. stem cell research or other controversial medical issue
47. women’s equality or lack thereof today
48. Charles Manson
49. real spies
50. the mercantile system
51. *The Giver* and *Farenheit 451*- a comparison
52. medical beliefs in medieval times
53. King Arthur
54. the Cold War
55. Salem witch trials
56. Greek tragedy
57. Irish immigration to Nfld.
58. Edgar Allen Poe (reference at least 3 of his literary works)
59. Charles Dickens and explain how his early life shaped his social perspective and ultimately his writing. Reference 3 works
60. the Hemingway “code” and how Ernest Hemingway changed novel writing. Reference 3 works.
61. the duality of human nature: good and evil. Explain how these two sides are in constant struggle with each other. (Note: Students may wish to reference *Lord of the Flies* or *Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde*.)
62. the origins of the modern novel.
63. the following theme: “Society must have laws. Man must be controlled because essentially he is primitive and uncivilized.” (Note: *Lord of the Flies* may be used as a reference here.)
64. defend the following statement: “All great poetry is written on two topics: love and death.” Reference at least four poems.
65. three well-known Newfoundland writers and discuss the main themes of their works. Reference six works.
66. defend the following statement: “Literature is simply the history of man’s dominance over woman.”
67. the origin of European settlement in and migration to Newfoundland. Link to *Random Passage*.
68. 19th century life and lifestyles in rural/outport Newfoundland. Link to *Random Passage*.
69. the following theme: “Only the strongest will survive.” Reference any or all: *Night, Random Passage, Julius Caesar, Lord of the Flies.*
70. Langston Hughes as “the modern voice of black poetry”. Reference 3 works.
71. Wilfred Owen and demonstrate how his poetry reflected the horror of war.
72. Sylvia Platt and discuss the tragic life of a gifted poet. Reference three works.
73. Emily Dickinson and show how she was a reclusive genius. Reference 3 works.
74. Eugene O’Neil and prove how his art mirrored reality. Reference 3 works.
75. e.e. cummings and his controversial poetry. Reference 3 works.
76. defend the position: “in jest, there is truth”. Reference editorial cartoons.
77. the use of and effectiveness of humour in literature. Reference three works.
78. Tragic hero in Greek Drama *Antigone* and Shakespearean drama *Macbeth* – a comparison
79. the cult of Dionysus (God of wine, fertility, sexuality) and the birth of Greek drama.
80. the role of women in Greek society (Note: *Oedipus Rex, Antigone*).
81. the importance of religion in Greek life particularly one’s duty to the Gods
82. the “Oedipus Complex” and its connection to Greek drama.
83. Virginia Woolfe and discuss the chaos of her mind and the style of her writing. Reference 3 works.
84. Your choice linked to English curriculum
85. Your choice NOT linked to English curriculum

Step 2

Make a tentative thesis statement

An effective thesis statement should take a position, one that you believe your research will prove. This will be a single sentence that formulates both the central idea of your research and your point of view on the topic. (*Reference Points*)

**As you progress through your research, you may need to revise your thesis statement.**

Research thesis statement:



Step 3

**Dig out and gather information** from a variety of sources

**Compile** your information in an organized way:

* Some people “cut and paste” information from the Internet. **Copy and paste source information at the time that you are compiling it.**
* Some write each subheading/research question on the top of a page, and put the appropriate information under each heading. Record the source information at this time!

Subheading:

Source information:

Jot Notes:

*
*
*
*
*
* Another way is to create a MATRIX, the number of boxes matching the number of subheadings. All sources should be listed **at the time.**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*As you compile your notes, you must ensure that you are crediting your sources. It is much easier to write the information down as you have it at your fingertips, and then put it in the correct format after you have completed your paper. Do not try to find all your sources after; I did that once, and I regretted it very, very much.**



Here’s how! Write this information down for every source you use as you use it. Some information may not apply to every source.

Author’s/Editor’s Name:

Title:

Publishing date:

Name and location of publisher

Pages of information

Date of Download

Internet site address (URL)

Authors/Editor’s Name:

Title:

Publishing date:

The information you have collected must be written down **properly** and

Step 4

**Write your paper** ensuring that you give credit for information that comes from your researched sources. Here’s how to **cite** your work:

Direct quotation

If you need to copy a source word for word, put “quotation marks around it.” (Then put the author, the year and page number in brackets). Then make sure there is a reference to this source in your reference page at the end. Example in the text:

Slaves were captured in Africa in various ways. One former slave said, “The village was surrounded by enemies, who attacked us with clubs, long wooden spears and bows and arrows.” (Lester 21). They were then brought to a ship where millions died during the journey to America.

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Works Cited

“Americans Without Work.” Editorial. *New York Times.* New York Times, 22 Dec. 2009. Web. 23 Dec. 2009.

Didion, Joan. “On Going Home.” *The Beacon Book of Essays by Contemporary American Women.* Ed. Wendy Martin. Boston: Beacon, 1996. 3-5. Print.

Stewart, Maria W. “Two Texts on Children and Christian Education.” *PMLA* 123.1 (2008): 156-165. Print.

Your own words

When using information from a source that you have put in your own words, you need to put (the author, the year and page number in brackets) and the source at the end in the reference page. For example:

Slaves were captured in Africa by enemies who attacked them with traditional weapons. (Lester 21). They were then brought to a ship where millions died during the journey.

Then, in the Works Cited Page at the end, you will see:

**When you have completed your first draft, be sure to revise and edit as always.**

Step 5

Finally, you are ready to publish your final copy. Include the following:

* A title page (the title; your name; your homeroom; your teacher; the date – Please note, in MLA this is also your first page)
* The paper (Last Name and Page Numbers in the upper right hand corner)
* The Works Cited Page (see MLA Handout)
* **See also: UBC (http://help.library.ubc.ca/researching/how-to-cite/) and OWL (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/1/)**

# Works Cited Page

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Your last page is a reference page that has entries for all the places where you found your information – books, internet sites, magazines, etc.

Check to make sure that:

* Centered at the top of the page you have “Works Cited.”
* All entries are in alphabetical order – by the author’s last name.
* References are double spaced like the rest of your paper.
* You use a hanging indent – the first line is lined up on the left margin and all other lines are indented.



To make a hanging indent using MS Word, highlight the whole entry, go to the top toolbar and hit Format 🡪 Paragraph 🡪 Indentation 🡪 Special dropdown menu 🡪 choose Hanging





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