

Junior Research Project

The Research Project is the majority of your grade for this entire semester. *IF YOU DO NOT PASS THE PROJECT, IT WILL BE **EXTREMELY DIFFICULT** FOR YOU TO PASS THE SEMESTER.*

Goals:

Students will be able to:

- choose a topic and form their own pro or con opinion;
- perform the action of research: find sources that discuss their topic;
 - hardcopy source (book, newspaper, journal)
 - internet source (www.procon.org, online newspapers, journals, blogs)
 - database source (EBSCO)
- determine if sources are credible by answering the following questions:
 - Is this source written by a reliable person / institution?
 - Does this source have a bias or prejudice on this topic?
- determine if sources are valuable to their research by answering the following questions:
 - Does it support my personal opinion on my topic?
 - Does it support the opposing view on my topic?
- identify relevant information in the sources;
- choose the appropriate use of this information within their project;
- summarize, paraphrase, and/or quote relevant information accurately;
- identify and use proper MLA format for various products of the project.

Results:

Students will submit a portfolio that will contain:

- 5 source packets (cover sheet and hard copy of source)
- Annotated Bibliography for the 5 sources
- Outline of the proposed paper with Works Cited page
- Notes and worksheets used during the project

Needs:

- 3-ring notebook or folder for your materials
- Blue highlighter
- Yellow highlighter

Perk:

You will be paired with a partner. This person is your support and guidance for this project. Since you'll be working on the same topic and question, the research phase should be faster and easier as you split up the work. All questions and concerns should be discussed with this partner; this would include where to find the information, how to use the information, how to use Word and type up the information, etc. If, together, you two cannot figure out the answer to the question or the problem, then the teacher is available for your support.

Your team work (as observed by the teacher and evaluated by your partner) is worth 25% of your final grade.

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General Information:

For your research project:

- 1) choose a topic (Example: advertising aimed at children)
- 2) pose a particular question about your topic (Should it be regulated by law?)
- 3) answer the question with your opinion (No, it should not be.)
- 4) find 5 sources that answer the question with either a “Yes” or “No”.
- 5) propose a paper that states your opinion and the opposing opinion. (While I believe this, others believe that.)
- 6) accurately document your sources.

MLA format:

MLA instructions are included in this packet and are on my website in the NOTES section.

DO NOT use Noodle Tools or other citation assistance sites. USE YOUR BRAIN and figure it out with the resources given.

Research Information:

General research guidelines and basic steps are on this website:

<http://unionresearch.schools.officelive.com/default.aspx>

Some of the information on this website is not relevant to your assignment, so be careful how you use this information.

If you have any questions, here is my contact information:

e-mail: birky.charlene@unionps.org

website: birkyenglish.pbworks.com

To access EBSCO (an online database) on the Internet at www.unionps.org:

Click on Schools

Click on Union High School

Click on UHS Media Center

Click on EBSCO – click YES

Click on EBSCOHost Web

Check mark the boxes in front of **Funk & Wagnall’s New World Encyclopedia,**

MasterFILE Premier, Newspaper Source, and TOPICSearch

Click Continue

Type in your topic in the search box

Click Search

Sort by Relevance

To access Bartleby (another online database) on the Internet at www.unionps.org:

Click on Schools

Click on Union High School

Click on UHS Media Center

Click on Bartleby – click YES

Search by “All Reference” – use topic

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If you have a Tulsa City/County Library card, you may access their database from www.unionps.org:

Click on Schools

Click on Union High School

Click on UHS Media Center

Click on Tulsa City/County Library

Type your last name and your Tulsa City/County **Library Card** number and enter

For general websites, some good places to START are:

www.procon.org

www.wikipedia.com (go to the bottom of the article and click on the links in the resources)

5 Source Packets:

- 1) Find 5 sources (1 book, 1 internet, 1 EBSCO, and 2 of your choice) that answer your question.
- 2) Print/copy your sources so that you have a hard copy. **IF THE SOURCE IS MORE THAN 5 PAGES LONG, ONLY PRINT/COPY THOSE SHEETS THAT YOU WILL BE USING FOR QUOTES OR FOR YOUR SUMMARY.**
- 3) For EACH source, create a cover sheet with proper MLA formatting, correct citation, and highlighting key indicated, print it, and attach it to the source (see the example of a cover sheet at the end of this packet).
- 4) Read the source.
- 5) Pick **one** sentence that you will use as a quote in your Annotated Bibliography. Highlight that sentence in BLUE.
- 6) Pick **several** sentences that contain key information that you will use to write a summary of the article in your Annotated Bibliography. Highlight those sentences in YELLOW.

Annotated Bibliography:

Part of the project will include summarizing your sources into an annotated bibliography.

- Summary means to decrease the size of the source to its main points IN YOUR OWN WORDS.
- A summary should state the main ideas of a passage in as few words as possible.
- A summary should answer these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

To create your annotated bibliography:

- 1) Create a new Word Document with 1" margins and double spacing.
- 2) Create a proper MLA HEADER.
- 3) Include the correct MLA HEADING.
- 4) Title your document "Annotated Bibliography".
- 5) Copy and paste all 5 citations from your source packet cover sheets.
- 6) Alphabetize the 5 citations by the 1st word.
- 7) **STEP 1** - Between Citation #1 and Citation #2: In paragraph form, with at least 5 sentences, summarize the article (HINT: answer the questions: who? what? when? where? why? how?) **NOTE: DO NOT INDENT THE ANNOTATION PARAGRAPH.**
- 8) **STEP 2** - Add your quote from this source, correctly cited. [HINT: Use this basic format – This quote sums up my article: "Quote." (Author page)]

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- 9) STEP 3 - Add a sentence that states the quality or value of this source as a source
[Example: This source was (or was not) a useful source because it included (or did not include) information that helped me develop my opinion on this topic.]
- 10) STEP 4 - ENTER twice – to allow an extra space before your next citation.
- 11) Follow STEPS 1-4 for each of your citations, making sure you have “annotated” ALL 5 sources.

Proposed Paper in Outline format with Works Cited page:

Instead of writing a full paper, you are writing the outline of a proposed paper.

The proposed paper in outline format:

1. must have a creative, relevant title
2. must include a specific thesis statement that
 - a) clearly shows the direction of the paper and
 - b) includes your opinion.
 - Fulfill this requirement by writing an introductory paragraph which includes your **THESIS STATEMENT**.
 - A thesis is the controlling idea, the main point, the conclusion you have drawn about the evidence you have collected from your sources.
 - The thesis should a) narrow your subject to a single idea, b) claim something specific, c) convey your purpose (opinion), and d) preview the organization of ideas.
 - For more information on **THESIS STATEMENTS**, see the worksheet at the back of this packet.
3. must show where each source would be incorporated. Quotes are to be written in the outline with proper in-text citation.
 - Fulfill this requirement by doing an outline of the paper’s body paragraphs ****NOTE: You are only required to use 3 of your 5 quotes from your sources. IF YOU USE ALL 5 (adding them into your outline appropriately AND citing them correctly), YOU WILL GET 5 BONUS POINTS FOR EACH EXTRA QUOTE.**
4. must include the topic sentences for the three body paragraphs (as stated in the outline).
 - Fulfill this requirement by following steps of #2.
5. must include a restatement of the thesis (though not identical) for the conclusion paragraph.
 - Fulfill this requirement by writing a conclusion paragraph for the “paper”.
6. must include a Works Cited page for all 5 sources.
 - Fulfill this requirement on the last page of your proposed paper.

To create your Outline:

- Create this document in Word with 1” margins, double spacing, MLA Header, MLA Heading, and Assignment Title.
- See the Outline example at the back of this packet.

Portfolio:

Hole punch and assemble your portfolio into a 3-ring binder in this order:

1. Grading Rubric WITH YOUR NAME
2. 5 Source Packets
3. Annotated Bibliography
4. Proposed paper in Outline format

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5. This packet and all other handouts and notes

Checkpoints:

1. January 5, 2011: learning contract signed
2. January 6, 2011: source packet cover sheet for BOOK, EBSCO, and INTERNET.
3. January 12, 2011: annotated bibliography formatted and set up with citations inserted and in order.
4. January 19, 2011: outline formatted and set up with paragraphs inserted and in order
5. January 21, 2011: PORTFOLIO DUE!

Learning Contract:

Students will be given 14 days of combined library and computer lab use during class in which to work on this assignment. By signing below, the student understands that he/she may need to complete some of the research outside of class. The student is also acknowledging that if he/she is NOT present in class, he/she will STILL be responsible for completing assignments on time (independently or with his/her partner). By signing below, the student also realizes that the instructor is available for consultation and assistance, and she can be reached via e-mail at all times.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Instructor's Signature: _____ Date: _____