

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 a document.

SECTIONS

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|---|---------------------------|
| 01. Formally declare a topic and thesis statement. | <u><due week 11</u> |
| 02. Gather preliminary research; begin constructing paper. | <week 11-13 |
| 03. Compose a first draft of approximately 300 words. | <u><due week 12</u> |
| 04. Generate indepth research. | <week 13-15 |
| 05. Compose a second draft approximately 600 words. | <u><due week 15</u> |
| 06. Create a tentative Works Cited Page. | <u><due week 15</u> |
| 07. Present five page document: <i>digital & print versions</i> . | <u><due final week</u> |

FINAL DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Five (5) full pages, *plus* an additional work cited page; appendix is optional.
- Entire paper is double spaced, following MLA standard template

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SOURCES

- 3 academic journals (database)
- 3 books
- 3 web sites

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.

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

Animal rights

Binge drinking

Capital punishment

Censorship

Civil rights

Environmental protection

Gender issues

Genetic engineering

Global warming

Immigration

National Border Wall

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer in schools

Racial profiling

Same sex marriage

Terrorism

Tobacco & smoking

Violence in schools

Wild Card (*must be pre-approved*)

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