

11th Grade American Literature Research Paper

Mrs. Ramos
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Influential People

Many individuals in history have had a major influence on American and/or World events. You will be researching an individual and examine whether or not they made a significant impact (significantly influenced) on America or the World.

Please note -- some of the individuals listed below are controversial figures

You will need to use a variety of sources to complete this assignment. The Research Paper must be **3-5 pages** in total length (so **at least** 3 pages of actual writing), double-spaced (12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins), including an MLA-style Works Cited page.

Research Paper Subjects by Category

Anti-Slavery/Abolitionist

John Brown
Olaudah Equiano
William Lloyd Garrison
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Sojourner Truth
Harriet Tubman
Nat Turner

Civil Rights

Frederick Douglass
W.E.B. DuBois
Martin Luther King Jr.
Malcolm X
Thurgood Marshall
Rosa Parks
Booker T. Washington

Environment/Nature

Rachel Carson

Free Speech/Anti-Censorship

Arthur Miller

Holocaust Survivors/Resisters

Raoul Wallenberg
Elie Wiesel
Simon Wiesenthal

Journalists/Muckrakes

Seymour Hersh
Upton Sinclair
Ida Tarbell

Labor Leaders

Cesar Chavez

Peace/Humanitarianism

Ron Kovic
Eleanor Roosevelt

Political/Legal Leaders

Abraham Lincoln
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Political Revolutionaries

Benedict Arnold
Benjamin Franklin
Tom Hayden
Patrick Henry
Thomas Jefferson
Joseph McCarthy
Thomas Paine
George Washington

Prison Reform/Anti-Poverty

Dorothea Dix
Sister Helen Prejean

Sports/Athletics

Muhammad Ali
Jesse Owens
Jackie Robinson

Women's Rights

Susan B. Anthony
Betty Friedan
Margaret Fuller
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Gloria Steinem
Margaret Sanger

Writers/Philosophers

Edgar Allan Poe
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Helen Keller
Henry David Thoreau
Walt Whitman
John Steinbeck

NAME: _____ PERIOD: _____

Checklist/Timeline

This form is the only place where your points will be recorded. You must turn in this form with your final research paper in order to receive full credit for the final research project.

Date Due	Assignment Due	Pts.	Points Credited and Teacher Signature
Friday January 12	Topic Chosen (write it here):	100	
Thursday January 18	Working Thesis Statement (NEATLY written in packet)	100	
Wednesday January 24	Works Cited Index Cards ***A minimum of 6 sources must be utilized. 2 sources MUST be books/databases; the remaining sources may be websites.	100	
Monday January 29	Note Check #1 (5 notecards per source) ***First 3 sources	100	
Monday February 5	Note Check #2 (5 notecards per source) ***Last 3 sources	100	
Friday February 9	Detailed Outline (NEATLY written in packet)	100	
Tuesday February 13	Works Cited Page - Typed - MLA Format ***A minimum of 6 sources must be cited. 2 sources MUST be books/databases; the remaining sources may be websites.	100	
Friday February 16	First Draft - Typed with Works Cited page - MLA Format Focus Correction Areas: Format, thesis statement, use of transitions, parenthetical citations, works cited page, ideas follow order of thesis.	100	
Friday February 23	Final Draft - Typed with Works Cited page - MLA Format - First draft must be turned in as well. *** This grade will count as your final exam ***	100	
Friday March 2	Bloom Ball - Creative, Colored, Every side complete	100	
Monday-Friday March 5-9	Presentations	100	
TEACHER COMMENTS:			FINAL GRADE:

PLAGIARISM: A Warning

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty that robs the intellectual property of others. Plagiarism is NEVER acceptable. **A research paper showing evidence of plagiarism will receive a grade of zero. As noted in the district grading policy, the student will be given one opportunity to submit an original paper. The grade earned on the original paper will be averaged with the zero, resulting in a maximum grade of 50%.** Remember – if you can find papers or passages to copy on the internet, your teacher can find them, too.

What is Plagiarism

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work, or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft
4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

But can words and ideas really be stolen?

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property, and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file).

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not.

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Source of the above information: www.plagiarism.org

Developing a Thesis Statement

The following examples show how to develop a thesis statement from a broad, general idea. Each step shows a further narrowing of the topic in order to arrive at a legitimate thesis statement.

Broad → Narrow
Mark Twain → *Huckleberry Finn* → Biographical significance of the ending

THESIS: Huck's departure at the end of the novel reflects Twain's own dissatisfaction with civilization.

Broad → Narrow
Public Schools → Length of School Year → Positive effect of long school year

THESIS: An extended school year would have a positive effect on learning, student attitudes toward school, and the retention of skills from year to year.

WHAT A THESIS STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE:

1. A topic or subject by itself cannot serve as a thesis statement. That information tells what the paper is about, but not what you and your research have to say about it.
2. A question cannot serve as a thesis statement because it is not a statement. A question merely says that an answer will follow. However, a question-and-answer pair can be a thesis statement.
3. A general statement that lacks a detailed point of view cannot serve as a thesis statement. A general statement may give the reader background information, but does not reflect your point of view. A thesis statement must present an argument.
4. A "so what?" statement. This kind of thesis statement is too obvious (common knowledge) and demonstrates no originality of thought.

WHAT A THESIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE:

1. A complete sentence summarizing the point of view in your paper.
2. A specific declaration of your main idea.
3. A statement reflecting your position.

EXAMPLES:

THESIS: *The Midwife's Apprentice* is a realistic interpretation of the Middle Ages, showing what life was really like for the common villager.

THESIS: Throughout *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the reader witnesses the growth of Scout Finch as she becomes aware of the true nature of the people in her town.

HINT: You write a thesis statement early to focus **YOUR** attention – not that of your reader. Therefore, as you do your research, you will need to modify your statement or radically change it.

NAME: _____ Period: _____

Working Thesis Statement

1: First, write down your topic: _____

2: Did this person have a **positive or negative impact/influence** (choose one): _____

3: Did the person impact/influence the **United States only, or the world** (choose one): _____

Now, think about **how this person impacted/influenced the U.S./world.**

(Examples: politically, economically, philanthropy, legal reforms, religion, social reforms, women's rights, racial discrimination, etc.)

4: Choose **two ways this person influenced the U.S./world:**

A.

B.

*****For Later Use***** In what **era** did the person make an impact (influence) the U.S./world?

Suggested eras: Early America, the Civil War Era, The Harlem Renaissance, The Great Depression, The Cold War, The 20th Century, The 21st Century. You may also use time period numbers or decades.

Era:

Now, **use the information from above** to fill in the following:

_____ **positively/negatively** impacted/influenced the **United States/**

Name of your topic (1)

the world by/through _____

4A above

and _____

4B above

The statement above should be a **working thesis** for your research paper. It is a statement that you can prove is true with your research. Rewrite your working thesis from above in its entirety below.

MLA Citation Information

SAVE YOURSELF EXTRA WORK by...

...using www.citationmachine.net to format your in-text citations and Works

Cited page. Click **MLA** in the upper left corner, select your **source type** (book, encyclopedia, web page, etc.), enter required information and click **submit**, and then cut and past the formatted information into your research paper.

English Research Paper Outline
*****DUE: Friday, February 23rd*****

NAME: _____

PERIOD: _____ DATE: _____

1. Thesis Statement

*(Write your **FINALIZED** thesis statement in this space).*

2. Introduction

(Write down any points you want to include in your introduction in this space. You may write the actual introductory paragraph or simply make bullet-point comments. The final sentence of your introduction will be your thesis statement).

3. Supporting information

(Write down any details or facts that support your thesis statement).

4. Conclusion

(Use this space to write down any points you want to include in your conclusion. You may write the actual concluding paragraph or simply make bullet-point comments).

5. List of sources

*(List the sources you will use in your paper. You do **NOT** have to use MLA style **here** – just list book titles, websites, etc.).*

Research Paper **Final Draft** Expectations

1. Research Paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font with standard 1-inch margins. The Research Paper should look professional – not wrinkled, misprinted, or damaged.
2. Your research paper must be 3-5 pages long. ***A minimum of 3 full pages of actual writing.*** Your “Works Cited” page does **NOT** constitute a page of writing! Papers should not exceed 6 total pages.
3. You must use quotations and proper MLA citation form. Ex. According to Smith, the Middle Ages were “a very exciting time” (46). **You must use at least 2 direct quotes from 2 separate sources.**
4. You must include a Works Cited page at the end of your paper. This is where you list the sources you have cited in your writing. They are listed alphabetically as in a bibliography page. **You must have at least 6 sources listed. At least 2 sources must be books/databases.**
5. **You MUST submit your TIMELINE CHECKLIST in order to receive credit on all of the checks. If you do not submit this form, you will only receive partial credit for the final research project grade.**
6. First Drafts – Your first draft will only benefit from revisions if it is turned in on time. I highly advise you to submit a first draft, as you will benefit from peer revising and editing to help improve your paper. If you do not submit a rough draft, you will NOT earn the 100 points awarded for the rough draft. There should be nothing “rough” about your first draft. It will be the first time I see it, but NOT the first time you have written it. Your first draft **MUST BE TYPED AND PRINTED WITH YOUR WORK CITED PAGE!**
7. Research Papers must be turned in **on time**. Late papers will only be accepted **one day** after the due date for a 10% deduction; **NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT POINT.**
8. Check your printer well before it is expected to perform. Printers that are out of ink or don’t work correctly will not constitute a legitimate excuse. Also, computers that fail will not be excused. Save your work often – you can always email the document to yourself and print it out at school on the day it is due. **YOU MUST TURN IN A PRINTED COPY OF YOUR PAPER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PERIOD ON THE DUE DATE.**
9. You **MUST** also submit your paper on Google classroom by Friday, February 23, 2018, by 11:59 pm.