**THE SENIOR RESEARCH PAPER**

**The Assignment:**

This quarter, you will be writing an argumentative research paper that examines a work of literature, art, or music of your choice. You will attempt to prove “why your work matters” by addressing the following questions:

1. What/Who influenced the creation of your selected work? What is the context of your selected work?
2. What influence has your work had on art and/or society? Why is your selected work important?
3. What does your selected work tell us or show us about humanity, society, and/or the world? (Theme)

The SRP will be a minimum seven full pages in length with at least six well-researched sources in MLA format. This paper is worth 600 points total—300 points for assignments throughout the quarter and 300 for the final draft.

As this paper is a ***graduation requirement***, it is *essential* that you turn in a complete, satisfactory paper; otherwise, you will not be able to graduate.

**Topic Selection:**

You will be writing a research paper on a work of literature, art, or music of your choice. Because we will be working on this for the entire third quarter, make sure that your topic interests you and has a wide range of literature to research. Once the teacher has approved your topic (approved topics are school appropriate and *researchable*) and you have created your bibliography, no topic change may be made. Choose wisely! ***If you are unable to find reliable sources (i.e. database journal articles) for your topic, it will not be approved.***

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| Potential Works: | Examples: |
| * Novels | *Slaughterhouse V* by Kurt Vonnegut |
| * Plays | *The Laramie Project* by Moisés Kaufman |
| * Short Stories | Selection from author such as Joyce Carol Oates |
| * Poetry | Singular poem or collection of poems by Amiri Baraka |
| * Music Albums / EPs | *Acid Rap* by Chance the Rapper |
| * Visual Art (paintings, sculptures, photography, etc.) | *The Old Guitarist* by Pablo Picasso |

**Formatting:**

This paper will be in standard MLA format. If you need examples, please refer to OWL Purdue’s sample MLA paper.

Font: 12 point font, Times New Roman

Spacing: 1-inch margins / double-spaced *(without extra space between paragraphs)*

Page numbers: Your header should go in the top-right corner of your paper. This should include your first initial and last name so it appears like this: “V. Mason 2” on page 2. You do not need a header or page number on the first page.

Numbers: Write out the word for numbers one through ten. You may write the numerical version for numbers 11 and above; however, write out the name of the number if the number starts a sentence (i.e. “Twenty-one dogs chased him” vs. “He was chased by 21 dogs”).

Names: Generally, use the full first and last name the first time you refer to a person. After that, you may just use the last name. You will typically not have to include titles (i.e. Mr. or Mrs.) with these last names.

Paragraphs: Each paragraph should have a topic sentence (including a transition from the previous paragraph) followed by supporting statements (comprised of quotes, details, and analysis).

Final Paper: Papers in their entirety (paper *and* bibliography as one document) must be uploaded **by 8:00am the day papers are due**, otherwise papers will be considered late. I will not be collecting printed copies. I also suggest emailing me your paper before that time.

**Requirements:**

1. *Length*: 7-8 pages, not including the bibliography or a cover page (so seven full pages of text)
2. *Sources*: There should be a *minimum* of six sources. Only three of these sources can be from non-database websites, and they must be reliable (i.e. no random blogs or sites like Wikipedia, Yahoo answers, sparknotes, etc.). Use resources such as journal articles, database materials, videos, music, newspapers, magazines, etc. **The more sources you utilize, the stronger your paper will be**.
3. *Quotes*: All papers must include quotes and in-text citations that follow MLA formatting. Papers without quotes and citations will be considered plagiarized. Remember to cite *ideas* as well as direct quotes.
4. *Notes and Sources*: Keep track of your sources. I recommend printing sources if possible in order to annotate them. I also highly recommend selecting one place (preferably a Google Drive document/folder or a notebook) to save all of your citations and sources in one accessible place.
5. *Lab / Library Time*: Most work for the paper will be completed outside of class, but we will have at least one or two days a week dedicated to working on the research paper in-class. Please use this time effectively and bring the necessary materials to class in order to minimize the time you must work on your paper outside of class.
6. *Plagiarism*: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any paper that is found to be plagiarized will result in a **zero**. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: not including a bibliography, not citing materials (quotes and ideas), using another person’s work as your own, etc.)
7. ***Due Dates*:** **The due dates are absolute**. Because we will be working on this paper for the entire quarter, **no extensions** will be given. **Even if you are absent**, you must get a copy of the assignment turned in the day it is due in order to receive credit. If you are absent, you may give your assignment to a friend to turn in but preferably email a copy to me at vhouse@cps.edu. I must email you back a confirmation in order to receive credit. Please remember to send attachments in readable files (.doc, .docx, or .pdf). Final Drafts will be put on Turnitin.com only.

**For every day an assignment is late, you will be docked a full letter grade**. This includes each day on the weekend. The final draft is due Thursday, April 12th, the last day of the quarter, at 8:00am. Papers received after this date will be considered late.

***- Specific Assignment Due Dates are Listed on the Next Page. -***

**Important Due Dates Throughout the Quarter:** *(I reserve the right to change any of these due dates.)*

Friday, February 9th – end of class Potential Topic – 8 bullet points of research ideas (10 pts)

Monday, February 12th – start of class Final Topic / 2 (***Journal Article\*\****) Sources Printed *IN CLASS* (20 pts)

Friday, February 23rd – start of class Outline Due (25 pts)

Friday, February 23rd - *in* class\* Initial thesis - Writers Workshop: Thesis Editing (10 pts)

Tuesday, February 27th – end of class Initial thesis – Final Draft / Updated Outline (15 pts each)

Friday, March 9th – start of class First draft (50 pts) – Must have a copy typed and printed *IN CLASS*

Thursday, March 15th – start of class 10-12 analyzed quotes from six sources (25 pts)

Tuesday, March 21st – end of class MLA Bibliography (25 pts)

Thursday, March 22nd – start of class Second draft (50 pts) - – Must have a copy typed and printed *IN CLASS*

Friday, March 23rd – *in* class\* Writers Workshop: Peer Editing (15 pts)

Sometime before the FD due date Visit the Writer’s Workshop to have your paper reviewed/edited (make

an appointment online or stop by during your lunch) (40 pts)

Thursday, April 12th – 8:00am Final draft (300 pts) on Turnitin.com

\*There will be two in-class Writers Workshop sessions (2/23 and 3/23) each worth 15 points. If you do not attend these classes, you must find a time to make up these activities. This includes finding someone to give you feedback on your thesis/paper as well as taking time to give commentary to someone else on their thesis/paper.

\*\* These must be sources from a database to receive credit. If you are unable to find any database sources for your topic, I suggest choosing a new topic.

*If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me in class or email me at vhouse@cps.edu. I will post this handout on my website in case anyone needs an additional copy.*

**Library / Lab / Chrome Cart Days:** *I reserve the right to change or cancel any of these dates.*

Thursday, February 8th - LAB255

Friday, February 9th - Library

Tuesday, February 13th - LAB255

Wednesday, February 21st - Library

Tuesday, February 27th - Library

Thursday, March 1st - Library

Wednesday, March 7th - LAB255

Tuesday, March 13th - Chrome Cart

Wednesday, March 14th - LAB255

Tuesday, March 20th - LAB255

Wednesday, March 21st - LAB255

Wednesday, April 4th - LAB255

Friday, April 6th - Chrome Cart

Tuesday, April 10th - Chrome Cart

Wednesday, April 11th - LAB255