

Researched Argument / Synthesis Paper

Many of you have heard of the Junior Research Paper. You will be doing something slightly different. You will be writing a researched argument based on our work with synthesis papers that is focused on a general, educated audience. This will be a bit longer than your pop culture synthesis essay and require that you find and use credible outside sources. We're going to do all of this BEFORE the Memorial Day Weekend. ("Whew! You've GOT to be crazy, Mr. Giddings!" I can hear you saying it in your heads. Nah, if I were crazy, we'd read these papers at the next school board meeting while dancing around a May Pole juggling small woodland creatures. Thank God, I'm not crazy!)

This paper is about choice. Your *13 choices* in questions to pursue are:

Focus on Gender

Write question 1, 2, or 4 from page 417-18 of our textbook using at least 3 sources from the gender conversation section from pages 408-17.

OR

Focus on Science and Technology

Write question 2, 3, 4, or 5 from pages 695-696 in our textbook using at least 3 sources from the science and technology conversation section on pages 678-695.

Additional Technology Option: Write to the technology prompt linked on the blog: <http://goo.gl/RGc0Z>

OR

Focus on Sports and Fitness – Body Image

Write question 3, 4, or 5 from page 493 in our textbook using at least 3 sources from the sports and fitness conversation section on pages 482-492.¹

OR

Focus on the Individual and Community

Write question 1 from page 345 or question 1 from page 335 in our textbook using at least 3 sources from the community section on pages 259-334.

OR

Immigration Prompt

The US has always been known as a land of opportunity. Immigrants have been encouraged to come to the US by the promise of a better life and more opportunities for people willing to work hard. Public opinion of immigration has swayed back and forth over time on how strict immigration laws needed to be. For the first decade of this century, the US has faced great social, political, and economic challenges that come with supporting and organizing a population that recently surpassed 300 million people. Some

¹ See me for additional resources on this topic. We can make copies.

people believe that immigration should be slowed or stopped to save money and to prevent immigrants from “diluting” our national culture, while others argue that the cost is relatively low to support new immigrants and that our culture becomes “richer” through the diversity of the population. Should the US slow immigration into the country? Does the US have a moral obligation to help immigrants looking for a better life? What are the advantages and disadvantages of your position?

See me for resources; I have copies.

Requirements

- 1500 words long
- Full MLA format (see MLA OWL link to sample pages on the blog)
- Use at least three sources from the conversation section that corresponds to your topic
- Use at least 2 outside sources – acceptable sources include:
 - Books
 - Reputable periodicals such as *Harpers*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *The Seattle Times*, etc.
 - Any ProQuest resource (User name: W417CFIFED Password: welcome)

Many websites are questionable sources and Wikipedia is verboten.

Due

May 24, 2012

These papers will be graded with the concerns of the AP synthesis rubric in mind, though since this is not a rough draft an increased emphasis will be placed on format and conventions.