

Name: _____
Period: _____ Date: _____

Ms. Nims
Senior Research Project

SENIOR RESEARCH PAPER

For your senior research project, your goal is to become an expert on a current issue or trend in society that connects with the themes and ideas we have been studying this year. You will research the issue thoroughly and form a thesis based on what you learn. In the end, you will compose a paper that supports your thesis and informs the reader about your selected issue.

First, conduct thorough and careful research. Consider the following:

- History & Background: How and why did it start? What is its origin?
- People: Who are the important people or groups involved?
- Details: What are the “nuts and bolts” of this issue?
- Examples: Find specific instances or experiences to represent the issue
- Important Dates & Key Developments / Turning Points
- Different Perspectives: Most of these issues are controversial. Find arguments for and against.
- Affects on Society: What are the repercussions of the issue? How does it affect people?
- Other: Each topic is different. Let your research guide you and form new questions as you go.

Next, synthesize the information you’ve researched and answer the following question:

- What are the main consequences of this issue or trend? How does it affect society?

Your answer to this question is your thesis statement. **Your paper must focus on proving this thesis. It should not be simply an overview of information.** Use the information you researched as evidence.

Requirements:

- Electronic Research Binder: (50 pts) This will be kept up as a Google Document Collection. In it, you will keep all materials pertaining to this project. The collection should be titled: “[Full Name]’s Research Binder” (For example, mine would be “Nierika Nims’s Research Binder.” You must have a link to this collection on your blog. Set the collection so “anyone with link” can view and “mhsnims@gmail.com” can edit. Your collection must have six sections or sub-collections: *Handouts*, *Note/Materials*, *Annotated Bibliography*, *Outline & Rough Draft*, *Final Draft/Works Cited* and *Presentation*.
- Annotated Bibliography: (100 pts) See handout explaining the guidelines. Your annotated bibliography must include information on all of your sources. (CP = 8 - 12 sources; Honors = 12 - 15 sources.)
- Outline: (50 pts) A plan for your paper using roman numerals, numbers, and letters to denote various levels of detail. The outline must span the entire length of your paper.
- Rough Draft: (50 pts) A completed draft of your paper, complete with comments from at least two peer reviewers.
- Final Draft: (100 pts) A proofread, polished copy of your paper that follows MLA standards for formatting and in-text citations. (CP = 5-8 pages; Honors = 8-10 pages)
- Works Cited: (100 pts) A complete list of sources used to research and support your thesis. It must follow MLA conventions.
- Presentation: (50 pts) You must present your findings to the class in a well-planned 5 minute (no more, no less) presentation. Your presentation must include an online presentation tool such as Google Presentation, Prezi, or Glog.
- Due Dates: (100 pts) See explanation on the following page.

Scoring: All together, this assignment is worth **600 points** in the major assessment category. Related assignments will be assigned as homework and classwork.

Due Dates: For each of the four major due dates, you will receive 25 points for meeting the goal for a total of 100 points for simply completing the work on time. In order to receive the 25 points, you must have the assignment completed before the beginning of the class period. The assignment is considered complete if it is neatly typed and proofread, located in the appropriate section of your Google Docs Collection and demonstrates a sincere attempt to follow the guidelines. See the opposite side for dates.

Suggested Topics: See “Current Issues & The Future” for ideas.

Due Dates:

Assignment	Due Date	Category	Ms. Nims
Topic Selection / Proposal Select <u>two issues</u> you would be interested in researching - a first choice and a second choice. Write a long paragraph on each topic, explaining what you already know, what you want to find out, and why this is your selected topic.	Monday 2/13	Homework Grade	
Set up Google Document Collection This must be complete with all seven sections.	Monday 2/13	Homework Grade	
Weekly Progress Reports Each week, you must complete a short progress report explaining what you accomplished that week. Progress reports must be completed in the form of blog posts.	Mondays 2/13 - 3/26	Homework Grade	
Annotated Bibliography* Must include all required sources.	Wednesday 2/29	100 Points Major Assessment + 25 for due date	
Outline* A plan for your paper using roman numerals, numbers, and letters to denote various levels of detail. The outline must span the entire length of your paper.	Monday 3/5	50 Points Major Assessment + 25 for due date	
Rough Draft* A completed draft of your paper. You will have the chance to peer-edit in class.	Thursday 3/15	50 Points Major Assessment + 25 for due date	
Final Paper + Completed Research “Binder”* All materials must be in the appropriate place in your Google Docs Collection.	Friday 3/23	Final Draft = 100 pts Works Cited = 100 pts Research Binder = 50 pts All Major Assessment + 25 for due date	
Presentation A well-planned 5 minute (no more, no less) presentation. Your presentation must include an online presentation tool (Google Presentation, Prezi, Glog, etc.)	Monday 3/26	50 Points Major Assessment	

