

RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES

The process of writing a research paper requires gathering and studying clues, evidence, and information; weeding out irrelevant information; organizing thoughts; and presenting accurate conclusions. Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to research a topic and write a 2-3 page argumentative paper on that topic. You will choose an argumentative topic, from the teacher provided list, to investigate and then you will research and gather the necessary information about the topic. After you complete your research, you will write a 2-3 page paper analyzing information about your chosen topic. The following are the criteria that you will be required to follow. **YOUR PAPER MUST BE ARGUMENTATIVE IN NATURE. THIS MEANS YOU MUST CHOOSE A POSITION THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO CHANGE SOMEONE'S POINT OF VIEW, BRING ABOUT ACTION FROM YOUR AUDIENCE AND CONVINCE YOUR AUDIENCE TO ACCEPT YOUR EXPLANATION/EVALUATION.**

The essay must:

- ☞ be 2-3 pages in length
- ☞ be presented in essay format
- ☞ be typed
- ☞ be double spaced
- ☞ be 12 point Times New Roman font
- ☞ contain at *minimum of 3 valid sources*
- ☞ include parenthetical citations
- ☞ include a correctly (MLA) formatted works cited page

The following are considered valid sources:

- ☞ Newspapers
- ☞ Encyclopedias
- ☞ Books
- ☞ Magazines
- ☞ Internet news sites (CNN, MSNBC, Etc.)
- ☞ Databases (see librarian)

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Your research paper is due:

NO LATER THAN May 8, 2015

Research Paper Handbook

**James D. Lester (Late), James D. Lester
Jr.**



Research Paper Handbook:

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