

# Junior English Research Paper

Mr. Larson

Writing a research paper is one of the most important skills you will learn in the English classroom because the research process is one you will implement continually in high school, in college, and possibly in your chosen profession. The process and product of this research paper reflects weeks of self-discipline and years of acquired skills. For this research paper, each step in the process is vital and must be completed before you go on to the next step. Stay on task and keep up! Not completing components of this project by the due dates results in low or failure grades for the semester!

The Junior Research Paper is required of all PHS Junior English students. **Students who fail to turn in a Research Paper will fail the semester and will not receive credit for the second quarter of Junior English.**

## Topic: A Turning Point in American History

Many famous Americans and famous events have helped shape this country into what it is today. Their contributions may be different, but the impact each has had on our country is important. For this assignment, you will choose a famous person, famous event, or famous fad in American history to research (with instructor approval). This person, event, or fad must have been important enough to significantly impact American culture. Your person, event, or fad had to occur BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. Only one person may select any given research topic per class. No one in your class will be doing the same thing you are doing.

Note: If you have an excused absence for any day when any of the work is due, the work must be turned in on the next day in class when you are present in order for you to receive credit for the work. It is your responsibility to show the work to the teacher. If you have an **unexcused** absence on any day you cannot receive any points for the work due while you were gone.

**Final Paper (300 points) Due December 3, 2010 during your class period.** (No late papers will be accepted). **You must turn in all note cards, bibliography cards, and rough draft work at this time.** Any research paper that is not accompanied by the bibliography cards, note cards, and rough draft will *not be accepted and will result in a zero.* This paper is due via turnitin.com. This is mandatory. If it is not submitted via turnitin.com AND turned in to the teacher in hard copy by the due date above, the paper will receive a **zero grade.**

## Supplies

You will need the following supplies:

- An email address
- One package of 3x5 note cards (do not buy the spiral bound or Post-it style notes)
- Flash drive to save work

## Length

The final paper must be 6-8 full pages, in MLA format.

## Citations

In order to avoid plagiarism, you will need to include citations in your paper. Citations include paraphrases and direct quotes (full and partial, long and short).

You will need the following:

- a minimum of five short direct quotes (full or partial)
- one (minimum) or two (maximum) long quotes (may not be longer than 6 lines)
- a minimum of four paraphrases
- Must contain a minimum of eight different sources.
- Must use at least two Internet sources.
- May use no more than four Internet sources.
- May use no more than two encyclopedias. (No Wikipedia!)

Plagiarized papers will receive a ZERO and will be referred to the office. If you are unsure- ask questions!!

### Illustrations, etc.

Illustrations, charts, graphs, cartoons, etc., may be used but will not count as a page of text.

### Suggested Topics

**Following** are some suggested topics for this assignment. It is your responsibility to carefully consider each topic and anticipate any difficulties in locating sources for this project. If you wish to research a topic that is not included in this list, it must be cleared by your teacher before you begin. Each student in the class will research a different topic.

#### People

Lucille Ball  
Babe Didrikson  
Walt Disney  
John F. Kennedy  
Marilyn Monroe  
Jesse Owens  
Rosa Parks  
Elvis Presley  
Jackie Robinson  
John Wayne  
Malcolm X  
Richard Nixon  
Harry Truman  
Ray Kroc  
Margaret Sanger  
Maya Angelou  
Dr. Charles Woodson  
Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine

Woodstock  
Creationism vs. Evolution  
Amendment XIX: Right to Vote: Women

#### Businesses/Advertising

Apple computers  
Coca Cola  
McDonalds  
Microsoft  
Cigarette commercials

#### Inventions/Products

Airplanes—First liftoff in 1903  
Assembly line  
Harley Davidson is gay  
Spam  
Computers  
Teddy Bear  
Penicillin  
Polaroid camera

#### Events

Stonewall Inn  
Apollo Mission  
Challenger disaster  
The Depression  
Desegregation (Brown vs. Board of Education)  
Pearl Harbor  
Stock market crash of 1929  
Watergate

#### Entertainment/Sports

1919 World Series  
Blues  
Rock 'n Roll  
Disco  
Jazz  
Westerns  
MTV  
Cell phones

### Research Questions

Remember that you must select a topic that has made an impact on American society. You cannot simply provide the background or history of your topic. (This is not merely an informational paper.) A research paper must prove something. You must prove that your topic has somehow shaped American society.

Here are some questions to consider:

- How has the topic changed the way we think?
- How has the topic changed the way we act?
- How has the topic changed the way we play?
- How has the topic changed the way we live?

These questions can be narrowed further. For example:

- How has McDonalds changed the way we eat?
- How have airplanes changed the way we travel?
- How has Microsoft changed the way we conduct business?

## Source Reliability

### General Information:

Discovering pertinent, useful, and reliable information is critical in any research project. As the researcher, you must approach each book, periodical, journal, and online source with a critical eye. Ask yourself several questions about the source:

- 1) Who wrote the information? Is this person considered an expert in a particular field of study? Does the source include a biography of the author? Where did the author receive his or her education?
- 2) Does the article or book include an introduction? Is there a precise or abstract that explains the author's intent?
- 3) When was the book, article, journal, web site published? If a web site, when was it last updated and is there information about who maintains the web site?
- 4) Does the author list a source of information? Look at the end of a book, article, web site. Do you find a bibliography or works cited section? Review this information. Do the author's sources appear scholarly?
- 5) How can I use the information that I find? Will it support my thesis? Why is each source important?

### Your final product must include all of the following information:

- Your paper will be 6-8 pages of impeccably edited, properly formatted, and thoroughly researched information. It will begin with an introduction, flow smoothly with transitions, and end with a satisfying conclusion.
- It must be 6-8 pages of text, not including the works cited page
- Must contain a minimum of eight sources.
- Must use at least two Internet sources.
- May use no more than four Internet sources.
- May use no more than two encyclopedias. **(No Wikipedia)**
- Include at least five short quotes
- Include one or two long quotes.
- Keep long quotes between 4 and 6 lines.
- Include at least four paraphrases.
- Must be in MLA format.
- Must use citation-machine.net to ensure proper citations and works cited page.

The Research Process  
A Step-by-Step Guide

1. Determine your topic. Please consider that you will be working closely with this topic for the next six weeks. Choose something that interests you!
2. In the library, you want to first start looking for sources. Remember what the requirements are for the sources. Once you have found a source that will benefit you, work with it until you are finished with it. Remember, other classes will be working in the library at the same time and books have a way of disappearing. Know when we are scheduled for the library and lab, tardies do count. I do not want excuses about you not knowing where you are to be.
3. Once you've determined a useful, reliable source you must create a source card. Be sure to number each source card as demonstrated in class. **Each card must** contain all the pertinent publishing **information**.
4. After completing your source card, start taking notes from that source. Note cards derived from books or other concrete sources (such as magazines and newspapers) **need page numbers**. Remember that your note cards must contain the same initial code number as your source card.
5. When you are finished with your first source, repeat steps 2 through 4 until you have completed your source requirements **and** you have more than enough information to write your research paper.
6. Once you have completed your research, you must then determine the focus of your research paper. Write a general thesis statement that addresses your topic and tells the reader how you plan to organize your paper. This sentence will later be included in your introduction.
7. At this point, you should review your note cards and see where your information can take you. Organize your note cards into logical categories. Your minimum # of note cards is 30, although you may find you need more.
8. Write an outline. A formal outline is required.
9. Write and submit your rough draft (hard copy and to turnitin.com). There will be time in class to start this process. At this point, you must take into consideration the requirements of the paper. Consider length, the number of quotes and paraphrases required and your content. A handwritten rough draft and a typed full-length rough draft with works cited page is required. This must be submitted to turnitin.com before it will be accepted!
10. Have a family member proof read it and make suggestions.
11. Revise and save work.
12. Take peer editing very seriously to get feedback and improve writing.
13. Revise and save work.
14. Type the absolute final draft. **(Due December 3rd, 2010 during your class period.)**
15. Submit the final draft to turnitin.com. Must be submitted by midnight on December 3, 2010. Also turn in all hard copy work including all note cards, outlines, bibliography, drafts, and final to your instructor in class the day it is due for your period.

Research Paper Requirement **Checklist**

Check off the requirements your paper meets. Any requirements not met will result in the deduction of points. The instructor will not use this checklist during the grading process. It is for you to use in determining if your paper has met all the requirements.

- Is my paper 6-8 pages of text, not including the works cited page?
- Have I used a minimum of eight sources?
- Have I used at least two Internet sources?
- Have I used no more than four Internet sources?
- Have I used no more than two encyclopedias? (**No Wikipedia**)
- Have I included at least five short quotations?
- Have I included one or two long quotations?
- Are my long quotes between 4 and 6 lines?
- Have I included at least four paraphrases?
- Have I formatted my quotes and paraphrases properly?
- Have I cited all information that requires citation?
- Do my citations match my works cited?
- Have I introduced all of my quotes properly?
- Have I integrated the selected quotes into my own sentences and commented on them afterwards?
- Did I include only quotes that support my thesis?
- Have I proven my thesis?
- Do I have a strong introduction and an effective conclusion?
- Did I make sure to stay away from writing "In conclusion," or "So," at the beginning of my conclusion?
- Is my paper written in third person?
- Is my paper typed?
- Have I spell checked my paper?
- Have I asked someone I trust to proofread my paper?
- Is the body of my paper at least six pages?
- Is my paper double-spaced?
- Did I type my entire paper using the same font and the same font size?
- Does my paper have one-inch margins on all sides?
- Does my paper have a running header <sup>on</sup> each page?
- Have I included a header with all of the appropriate information?
- Have I included a complete list of works cited?
- Is my works cited formatted correctly?
- Have I turned <sup>in</sup> my source cards, note cards, rough drafts, outline, and thesis statement along with my final paper?
- Is my final paper free of any binding except for a staple in the upper left corner?
- Did I submit the final draft to turnitin.com?

**Grading Rubric**

CONTENT/IDEAS

- 20 Specific, illustrative content; sophisticated ideas that are particularly well developed
- 16 Specific, illustrative ideas
- 13 Sufficient content
- 9 Content limited to a listing, repetition of mere sequences or ideas
- 7 Superficial content
- 4 Absence of relevant content and/or inadequate *length*

ORGANIZATION

- 10 Obviously controlled and/or subtle organization
- 8 Logical and appropriate organization
- 6 Appropriate organization
- 4 Inconsistent organization
- 2 Confused organization
- 1 Absence of organization

VOICE/STYLE/TONE

- 15 The writer has effectively chosen a voice and purpose
- 10 The writing is expressive, engaging and sincere
- 8 The writing is expressive and purpose clear, but voice is hazy
- 6 The commitment to the paper is inconsistent
- 4 The writing provides little sense of involvement or commitment
- 1 The writing lacks a sense of involvement or commitment

WORD CHOICE

- 10 Writer's voice apparent tone, sentence structure and word choice
- 8 Precision and variety in sentence structure and word choice
- 5 Some precision and variety in sentence structure and word choice
- 3 Limited sentence structure and word choice
- 2 Lack of sentence structure and word choice
- 1 No apparent control over sentence structure and word choice

SENTENCE FLUENCY/STRUCTURE

- 10 Effective flow and rhythm in the paper
- 8 An easy flow and rhythm
- 5 The writing flows, but connections between paragraphs and sentences are rough
- 4 The writing tends to be mechanical rather than fluid
- 2 The paper is mechanical or choppy
- 1 The paper is difficult to read

CONVENTIONS

- 15 No major errors in mechanics, spelling and usage
  - 12 Some mechanical errors and/or usage errors
  - 10 Mechanical and usage errors not severe enough to interfere significantly with the writer's purpose
  - 7 Repeated weakness in mechanics and usage
  - 5 Mechanical and usage errors that seriously interfere with the writer's purpose
- Mechanical and usage errors so severe that writer's ideas are difficult, if not impossible, to understand

**SOURCES USED AND CITATIONS**

- 20 Used internal citations correctly; used all 8 sources, five short & two long quotes
- 18 Used citations correctly; used 6 sources, 4 short & two long quotes
- 15 Used citations adequately; used 3 sources, 4 short & 1 long quotes
- 10 Attempted to use citations-, used few sources, 2-3 short & 1 long quotes
- 0 No internal citations, 1-2 quotes

/100 X 5 = \_\_\_\_\_ Points Earned

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Dear parent or guardian of Perry Junior English student,

At about this time every year, a migration of sorts takes place at Perry High School as students in Junior English classes move into the school library in order to begin work on a major second quarter project, the research paper. Luckily, this year will be no exception! Students will have the opportunity to select from a variety of topics as they address the following prompt:

**Choose a famous person, famous event, or famous fad in American history to research (with instructor approval). This person, event, or fad must have been important enough to significantly impact American culture. Your person, event, or fad had to occur BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. Only one person may select any given research topic per class.**

The research paper is an important part of the curriculum. The class time spent on this project represents a significant portion of the student's semester effort and grade. Since the students are learning the research process, they must use required supplies, meet all deadlines, and follow the rules of proper behavior for the library.

As your student's deadline calendar indicates, step-by-step guidance and ample time are provided for each student's successful completion of this important project. Completed research papers are due on **December 3, 2009**, at the beginning of the class period. All source/note cards, thesis statements, outlines, as well as rough drafts, must also be turned in at that time to verify the student's work. The paper will not be accepted unless it is already submitted to turnitin.com. Encouragement from you with regards to meeting each deadline will increase your student's discipline and responsibility.

**No papers will be accepted after December 3rd, 2010.** If a student is absent when the final paper is due, the paper must be delivered to me by the end of that day and submitted to turnitin.com. Part of the grade will be based on the daily completion of note and bibliography cards and the meeting of other deadlines. The preliminary work as well as the final paper will count toward the second quarter grade. Your student will fail for the quarter if this project isn't submitted in hard copy and on turnitin.com by December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Please sign and return only the bottom portion of this letter to reassure me that you are aware of this important project. If you should have any questions, please contact me at [Larson.Clinton@chandler.k12.az.us](mailto:Larson.Clinton@chandler.k12.az.us).

Best Regards,

Mr. Larson English 11  
Perry High School

**I understand that my child is required to complete the Junior English Research Paper. Due to the importance of this project and the high number of points, I will attempt to encourage my child to complete this project in a timely manner. I also understand that if the project is not completed by the due date, that my student will not receive credit for this paper and will not pass Junior English, second semester. Also, I understand that if my student plagiarizes this paper, he or she will receive a zero for the assignment plus a referral to a school administrator. I have reviewed the attached school plagiarism policy. I understand that my student must submit a paper copy of his or her final draft to Mr. Larson, in addition to an electronic version to turnitin.com. If I have any questions I understand I can reach Mr. Larson at [Larson.Clinton@chandler.k12.az.us](mailto:Larson.Clinton@chandler.k12.az.us).**

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

## ACADEMIC ETHICS &amp; PLAGIARISM POLICY

Perry High School expects its students to maintain the highest degree of academic ethics. This means putting the utmost effort into all class work and assignments and avoiding the ethical pitfalls of plagiarism and cheating.

#### Plagiarism

Rationale: Plagiarism demonstrates a lack of integrity and character that is inconsistent with the goals and values of Perry High School.

Excellent written expression of well-formulated ideas is a fundamental skill for academic and career success. Plagiarism interferes with the assessment and feedback process that is necessary in order to promote academic growth. Plagiarism defrauds the instructor with a false view of a student's strengths and weaknesses. It may prevent further instruction in areas of weakness and delay the student in reaching his or her potential.

Plagiarism includes:

- taking someone else's assignment or portion of an assignment and submitting it as your own
- submitting material written by someone else or rephrasing the ideas of another without giving the author's name or source
- presenting the work of tutors, parents, siblings, or friends as your own
- submitting purchased papers as your own
- submitting papers, or portions of papers, from the Internet written by someone else as your own
- supporting plagiarism by providing your work to others, whether you believe it will be copied or not

#### Cheating

Rationale: Cheating demonstrates a lack of integrity and character that is inconsistent with the goals and values of Perry High School.

Education is based on learning specific skills, forming lifelong work habits, and developing mature coping skills according to each student's unique abilities. Stress sometimes propels students to make unethical choices. When students choose to cheat, it may be a symptom of more serious problems such as inappropriate class placement, over-commitment to extra-curricular activities, and/or academic desperation. The compromise of their values through cheating may lead to loss of self-esteem, as the students are often painfully aware of their shortcomings and fight a tiring battle to preserve their images at the cost of their ethics. True self-esteem is based on competence. Cheating robs students of their opportunity to become competent. Students are expected to produce their own work except on projects designated by the teacher as cooperative efforts. Teachers will indicate which assignments are to be cooperative efforts and will establish guidelines for the use of such aids as calculators, computers, word processors and published study guides. If a student is in doubt about the ethical standards applicable to a particular situation, the student is responsible for clarifying the matter with the teacher. Cheating includes:

- copying, faxing, emailing, or in any way duplicating assignments that are turned in, wholly or in part, as original work
- exchanging assignments with other students, either handwritten or computer generated, whether you believe they will be copied or not
- using any form of memory aid during tests or quizzes without the expressed permission of the instructor
- using a computer or other means to translate an assignment from one language into another language and submitting it as an original work
- giving or receiving answers during tests or quizzes. It is your responsibility to secure your papers, so other students will not have the opportunity to copy from you or the temptation to do so
- taking credit for group work when you have not contributed an equal or appropriate share toward the final result
- accessing a test or quiz for the purpose of determining the questions in advance of its administration.
- using summaries/commentaries (Cliffs Notes, Spark Notes, etc.) in lieu of reading the assigned materials. 9



### Alternatives to cheating and plagiarism:

No student needs to cheat or plagiarize. Perry High School provides numerous support services for students to help them achieve success honorably. Students who advocate for themselves and seek appropriate help when they need it will not need to cheat or plagiarize.

The following behaviors promote true student achievement:

1. Be prepared. Try to keep to a realistic schedule balancing academic obligations and your social and personal life.
2. Make certain that you understand your assignments and the grading assessment that will be used. If you have questions about an assignment or an assessment, talk to your instructor. Do not rely solely upon a classmate for clarification.
3. If you study for a test with a classmate, make sure that you do not sit near each other during the test since your responses (and errors) may be similar.
4. Do not read or scan someone else's paper before writing your own. Some of the ideas in the other person's paper may be ideas that you would have used, but you will now need to credit the person whose paper you read for those ideas.
5. Use all avenues of support available to you. For help needed beyond the classroom, see your instructor, other instructors in the department, a peer tutor, or a parent or other adult who is well versed in the subject.
6. Assignments should be considered individual unless the instructor states otherwise.
7. Be organized. Having class notes in an orderly, easily accessible format will save time and anxiety when studying for a test or writing a paper,
8. Keep current with assignments. If you need to read an entire novel the evening before a test or before a paper is due on that novel, your performance on either will suffer.
9. If, for whatever reason, you choose to use another's ideas or solutions, cite that person as a source on your paper or project.
10. Know what constitutes cheating, including all the variations of plagiarism.

The role of parental support in their children's achievement and ethical development:

Parental support of academic achievement and ethical development is fundamental to students' long-term success. The following behaviors will assist parents in promoting true student achievement:

1. Teachers are available for extra help after school, and resource centers are open all day for individual assistance. In addition, peer tutors are available when extra help is needed. Encourage their use.
2. Assess your child's abilities realistically. Help her/him to choose courses in which she/he will be successful and challenged without undue stress.
3. Don't push children beyond their limits with your expectations or aspirations. Many times students make bad decisions because the pressure to excel is greater than their ability to meet the expectations.
4. If you suspect your child is experiencing difficulty in a class, please contact the teacher. The sooner the problem is identified, the sooner steps can be taken to alleviate it.
5. If your child is caught cheating and you are called, please remember that this is a learning experience; help your child to accept the consequences for his/her inappropriate actions.

### Repercussions

Any student who is caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a grade of "zero" for the academic work involved, and the

of the student(s) will be notified. When work is copied from another student, both students will be penalized with a grade of "zero." Grades of "zero" which are the result of any form of academic dishonesty are irrevocable. The students will receive a "U" citizenship grade, a referral. The second offense will result in a three day suspension. Subsequent offenses are cause for removal from the class.

*Perry High School thanks North Hunterdon High School of Annandale, New Jersey and Manchester Essex Regional High School of Manchester-by-the-sea, MA for its clear policies on academic ethics, which we have revised and adopted (with permission) as our own.*

