

# **Research Paper Overview**

## **Senior Research Project, AP English Literature**

Mrs. Carter and Ms. Kunc

**TASK:** You will use inquiry-based research and information-seeking strategies to investigate a topic of your choice relating to a social, health or global issue. You will take a position on the issue and prove your position to be true or valid. You will also propose solutions to the issue/problem. In addition to your research paper grade, you will earn credit for your participation in each stage of the research process.

You will be using this wiki as a guide throughout the research process. All documents and assignments relating to the research project, as well as important links, tips, and a calendar of due dates, can be found on this wiki.

### **Contacts**

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### **Research Paper Guidelines**

- 4-5 Typed Pages, Double Spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman Font, MLA Style
- 1-Page Outline
- 1-Page Works Cited (Bibliography/References)
- Annotated Bibliography on [www.easybib.com](http://www.easybib.com)
- Minimum of FOUR Credible Sources (Including at least two articles from subscription databases)
- In-text citations

### **Research Process**

1. Pre-Writing: Planning and Researching (Choose your topic from a provided list and preliminary research)
2. Pre-Writing: Searching for Information and Taking Notes
3. Pre-Writing: Developing a Thesis Statement and Outline
4. Drafting and Citing Sources: MLA Style
5. Revising: Teacher and Peer Review
6. Editing
7. Publication, Presentation and Reflection

**Review the following list of topics from which you will choose your topic.**

### **Topics:**

#### Race and Ethnicity

- Should Affirmative Action for state university enrollment be continued?
- Should the primary method of public education funding, property taxes in individual school districts, be amended to create more fairness in schools?
- What should be done about racial disparities (inequities) in the sentencing of criminals?
- How do certain television programs perpetuate racial or ethnic stereotypes?

#### Gender and Sexuality

- What should be done to eliminate salary disparities between men and women?

#### Multiculturalism and Diversity

- Should the United States have more stringent immigration policy?
- Advertising and Marketing
- Should all billboard advertising of alcohol be banned?
  - How do certain kinds of advertising perpetuate racial stereotypes?
- Economic Issues
- Should the local sales tax be increased/decreased?
- Environment Issues
- Should national environment policy focus on developing more oil resources, or developing renewable energy sources?
  - Should recycling be mandatory?
  - Should the fuel efficiency of SUVs and pick-up trucks be raised?
- Media Issues
- Should music sharing programs on the Internet be outlawed?
  - Does the media influence the self esteem of young girls?
- Consumerism
- How does the concept of consumer credit influence our economy?
- TV and Film
- Should TV ratings be re-evaluated in regards to sex and violence?
  - Because celebrities are so often in the public spotlight, do they have ethical responsibilities to set good examples for young people?
  - How has reality television changed television viewing?
- Sports and Entertainment
- How has the increase in ticket prices and athlete salaries negatively affected professional sports?
  - Should college athletes be paid to play?
- Criminal Justice
- Should certain non-violent crimes be punishable by fines rather than jail time?
  - Are state-mandated “three-strikes” policies unfair?
  - Do blue light cameras reduce crime?
  - Should cyberbullying be a criminal offense?
- Education
- How necessary are the arts in the public school system? Argue for or against a change in funding for a particular district.
- National Policy
- Should mandatory military service be required for all men and women in America?
  - Should the minimum age for attaining a driver’s license be increased? Should this be a national standard?

You are encouraged to select a research topic that you are interested in exploring in-depth.

Once you have selected a topic, you must complete the “Topic Submission Form” (assignment #1) and turn it in to Mrs. Carter.