

ENGLISH 1302 RESEARCH PROJECT

Produce a research project on a topic of interest (see suggested topics on page three). Your main goal is to discover a deeper truth about a topic, and clarify that discovery to others. Begin with a complex research questions that will lead you to analysis and evaluation; use your answer to that question to build a strong thesis. Integrate academic sources and personal insight into the body of your essay, which display both evidence of research and your own critical thinking. You are tapping into the expertise of others while discovering your own perspective. Carefully document all research.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum of **five pages (plus a Works Cited)**
- Minimum of **four sources**: must include **three database** sources (such as CQ Researcher, EBSCO Host). Evidence of all four sources is required.
- Documentation** of all sources used, including internal citations in the body of your essay, and a Works Cited page (non-annotated).
- Follow **MLA style**
- Topic may not be changed after **March 29**
- Must adhere to the following schedule:

Pts.	Assignment	Deadline
10	Research question	March 8
10	Preliminary Works Cited (minimum 4 sources, MLA style)	March 20
10	Thesis statement	March 22
15	Annotated Works Cited (4 sources, summary of each)	March 27
15	Outline	March 29*
20	First draft (printed copy ; 3-page minimum)	April 5
20	Second draft (4 pages; due in Canvas by <u>start of class</u> for peer editing)	April 17
150	Final draft (Canvas)	April 19

* Topic may not be changed after this date

GRADING

Worth 250 points (see rubric on next page).

PURPOSE

The student will learn how to properly research and evaluated secondary sources in order to produce a research paper following the MLA style guidelines, as well as to analyze, interpret, and evaluate a variety of texts for the ethical and logical uses of evidence. The assignment will help students understand the purpose of an argument, to become more critical thinkers, to write an effective essay following the writing process, and to incorporate feedback into the revision process.

OBJECTIVES

ACGM Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 5

LCC Core Objectives 1, 4, and 6

Rubric – Research final draft

CATEGORY	Missing/ Unacceptable	Needs improvement	Meets expectations	Good	Excellent
Effective introduction	0	5	7	8	10
Well-developed body paragraphs	0	5	7	8	10
Effective conclusion	0	5	7	8	10
Organization	0	5	7	8	10
Variety and quality of sources	0	7	15	20	25
Documentation of source material	0	7	15	20	25
Works Cited page	0	5	7	8	10
MLA style formatting throughout	0	5	7	8	10
Punctuation and sentence structure	0	5	8	15	20
Meets all instructor requirements	0	5	8	15	20
TOTAL SCORE: 150 possible points for final draft (250 points for entire project)					

Possible topics for research project – You are not required to choose from this list

1. What is the impact of automation on American culture, lifestyles and the economy?
2. Should the federal government provide health care for all citizens who cannot afford their own?
4. What is the impact of illegal immigration on American society? The American economy?
5. To what extent should bilingual education be offered in public schools?
6. How has the rapid growth of the Internet changed American life? Can or should the Internet be regulated for content or access?
7. What role should the federal government take in dealing with the problem of AIDS, homelessness, or other widespread social, medical, and economical problems? (Pick only one problem for a focus.)
8. What is the impact of Mexico's drug cartel problem on the United States? What are the root causes?
9. Should parents and other interested citizens censor textbooks and other literature for children in schools?
10. What should be done to protect the rights of minorities (of all kinds) in America?
11. Where and how, if at all, should sex education be conducted?
12. Should English be declared the official language of the United States?
13. Should laws regarding minimum wage (or the forty-hour work week) be revised?
14. Should mandatory (or voluntary) prayer be permitted in public schools?
15. Should the government provide child day care centers for working parents?
16. Should donors or their families be compensated for organ donations? How should people be selected to receive donor organs?
17. Should tobacco companies be held responsible for smoking-related illnesses and deaths?
18. Should genetic engineering be controlled by law?
19. What impact on the family (or the workplace) have changes in gender roles had?
20. Do sports like Ultimate Fighting Championship promote a violent society?
21. How should colleges manage their athletic programs in relation to their academic goals?
22. Should surrogate motherhood be either banned or regulated by law?
23. Should condoms be available in high school?
24. Should academic freedom for teachers and students be limited or protected by law?
25. Does society have an obligation to protect privacy as a basic individual right?
26. Should sex and violence in movies, video games or on television be restricted?

27. To what extent does the private life and private morality of a public figure affect his or her ability to serve the public interest?
28. What restrictions should be placed on polygraph testing (or drug testing or personality testing such as MeyersBrigg Type Indicator) either for the criminal justice system or for the workplace?
29. What place should "creationism" have in the public education system?
30. Should controversial speakers (on whatever subject) be allowed on college campuses?
31. What types of regulations of smoking in public places should the legal system impose?
32. Do "beauty" contests (Mr. America, Miss America, etc.) serve any purpose in society?
33. Are American Indians being treated fairly in the 21st Century?
34. What prevention techniques and/or penalties should be applied to child molestation and child abuse?
35. To what extent should individuals have the protection of the law and the assistance of the medical establishment in terminating their own lives?
36. What techniques should the public schools use to strengthen literacy at all grade levels?
37. Should unapproved drugs be made available as a last resort to patients with conditions for which conventional treatments are known to be ineffective?
38. Should recycling be mandatory?
39. Should schools require student uniforms?
40. Should assisted suicide be permitted?
41. Should females in the military be excluded from combat and other "hazardous" duties?
42. Should high schools be segregated by the sex of the student?
43. Should marijuana be legalized for medical use? For all uses?
44. Should adopted children be given the choice of contacting their biological parents?
45. Should cell phones and tablets be allowed in school?
46. Should casino gambling be legalized in Texas?
47. Should gay couples be allowed to adopt?
48. Should girls be allowed to participate in contact sports like football and wrestling?