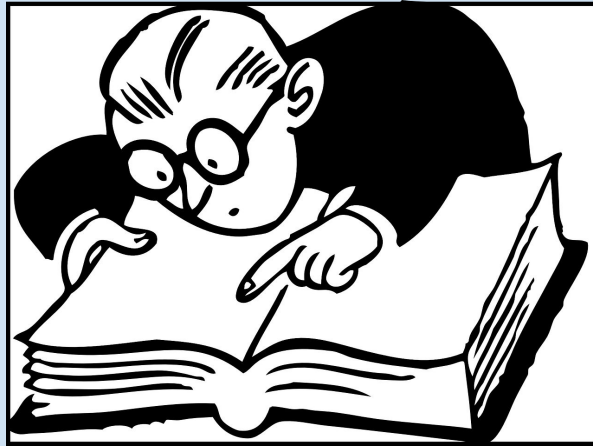


Research Paper Assignment

What is it?



*How do I get
started?*

What's the assignment?

- You are going to be writing a 4-8 page research paper on a topic of your choice.
- This is your chance to dig into a topic you're already familiar with and learn more or to learn something totally new about a topic you may have heard of or wondered about.
- Over the course of the next 2(ish) months, you'll do research on the topic, organize your notes into an outline and then write a paper on this topic.
- There will be a handful of smaller steps along the way to help
 - A) make sure you don't leave it all to the last minute and
 - B) to help you successfully break down what's a pretty big assignment into something that feels much more manageable.

Choosing a topic

Where should you start?

1. Think about what you enjoy doing for fun & use that to guide your selection.
2. Talk with your family, friends or adults in your life – they might have some ideas.
3. Think about how you learn best.
 - o If you are a visual learner, try to choose a topic where your resources are more likely to be visual.
 - o If reading is more of a struggle, consider topics that have a lot of audio-visual resources. If you choose to write about a tv show or film for instance, your primary research will involve *watching* the show or movie. If you're writing about music, you're going to have to *listen to* the music, listen to interviews with your musician, etc. as evidence.
 - o Regardless of what topic you choose, you WILL have to look at some print sources but there is room for research outside of text sources and even more so depending on the topic you choose. Keep in mind that there are many great podcasts & films/documentaries on pop culture topics.

Reviewing the assignment

Research paper



RP assignment & topic ideas

Edited 3:27 PM



PC RP Packet - 2022

Google Docs



PC RP topic ideas

Google Docs



RP checklist

Google Docs



Link

<https://library.lsrhs.net/research/>



Sport RP topic ideas

Google Docs

[View material](#)

Full details on the assignment, timeline, etc.

Step by step to-do list

Topic ideas for Sport or Pop

Topic ideas for Pop Culture

Page the library built for us (links to databases, info on keyword searches, etc.)

Choosing a topic



Read over the topic ideas for inspiration. (Posted in Google Classroom)

You don't have to choose off of the list but it may spark some ideas for you. If you don't know what something is, Google it!

Pop Culture Research Paper – Topic Ideas

If you are interested in...

Music

Elvis Presley
 Frank Sinatra & the Rat Pack
 Joan Jett
 Folk music (Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, etc.)
 Protest music (Vietnam, civil rights, Black Lives Matter, etc.)
 Music and drugs, mental health, etc.
 The Beatles
 James Brown and soul/funk
 Michael Jackson and/or the Jackson 5
 Freddie Mercury & Queen
 Tracy Chapman & social consciousness
 Motown Records
 27 Club (musicians' influence, cultural impact, etc.)
 Civil rights & rock 'n' roll
 Disco (music, dance, culture)
 LA riots in song (NWA, Dr. Dre, etc.)
 Hip hop (pioneers, East v. West coast rap wars, etc.)
 Bruce [Springsteen](#)

Movies

Dr. Strangelove and atomic culture
 Indie films/culture
How the Grinch Stole Christmas & American commercialism
 James Bond & spy culture
 Atomic scare films
Saturday Night Fever (disco culture)
 Marx Brothers
 Sherlock Holmes (detective stories in print, media, film, etc.)
 Spike Lee & film
 War in film (WWII, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.)
 Space/sci-fi obsession (*I Married a Monster from Outerspace*, Roswell)
 Hitchcock thrillers
Wizard of Oz (1930s)
Streetcar Named Desire ('50s sexual repression)
Shaft or Blaxploitation films (changing racial perception)
Easy Rider ('60s youth)
Gone with the Wind

Sport Research Paper – Topic Ideas

If you are interested in...

Race & ethnicity

Nascar & southernization of American culture
 Role of sports in Americanizing immigrants
 Popularity of baseball in internment camps
 Jackie Robinson & the integration of baseball
 Rubin "Hurricane" Carter
 Negro baseball leagues
 Harlem Globetrotters
 The ABA/NBA merger
 Joe Louis & Max Schmeling (race/internat. conflict)
 Jack Johnson (1st black heavyweight champ)
 Race based metrics in NFL concussion protocols
 Race & hiring at management/ownership level (Rooney Rule, Brian Flores suit, etc.)
 Malice at the Palace & fan/player conflict
 Uniforms/dress code (NBA, etc.)
 Michael Jordan, athlete & businessman
 Bill Russell & civil rights activism
 The Cleveland Summit

Sports & gender issues

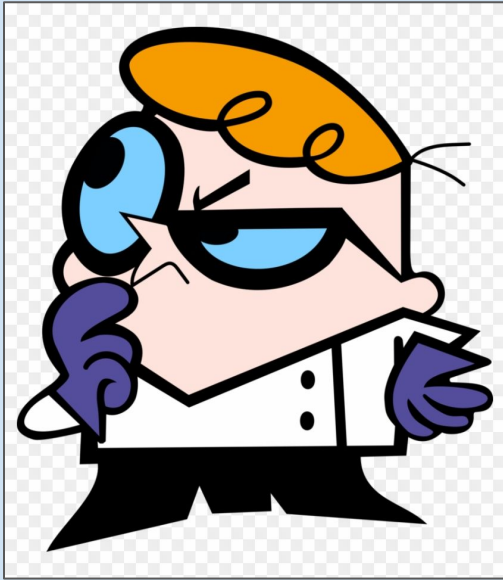
Billie Jean King & the Battle of the Sexes
 All-American Girls' baseball league
 Babe Didrickson
 Katherine Switzer & Boston Marathon
 Venus Williams (groundbreakers & gender norms)
 Serena Williams (double standards, body image, etc.)
 Yale women's crew
 Simone Biles (mental health, branding, etc.)
 Larry Nassar & USA gymnastics
 WNBA (popularization of, gender equity, social justice, overseas play, etc)
 Sponsorships & maternity rights
 Nancy Kerrigan v. Tonya Harding (class conflict in skating)
 NWSL women's soccer (equal pay fight, coaches & sexual harassment, contracts, etc.)
 Gender equity in the NCAA
 Professional sports opportunities for women (league growth/challenges, media, limitations, etc.)

Sports & politics/social issues

Mascots (controversy, evolution of, representation of)
 Jack Scott, Bill Walton (sports/social activism)
 Pat Tillman & patriotism
 First Pitch - GW Bush post 9/11 pitch meaning
 Red Sox & the Boston Marathon bombing
 Role of sports in the Cold War (Miracle on Ice, Moscow/LA boycotts, etc.)
 Los Suns
 1992 Dream Team
 Culture & handling of sexual abuse in... (gymnastics, hockey, women's soccer, etc.)
 Pro sports leagues & political activism
 Modern athlete activism (Naomi Osaka, Megan Rapinoe, LeBron James, Hillary Knight, Ibtihaj Muhammad, Natasha Cloud, Maya Moore, Bubba Wallace, etc.)
 Athletes & the AIDS epidemic
 Daryl Morey & China/Tibet & NBA
 Male high school students playing on female

Choosing a topic (cont.)

For instance, if I were going to do this assignment, I'd think about my own interests...



- the kinds of tv shows I like to watch - maybe there's a way I could look at one of my favorite shows?
- the sports I follow - maybe I could look into famous athletes or moments in sports history or think about the history of how these sports have changed over time?
- music I listen to or that my parents always talk about/play - maybe I could look at how a certain artist's music talks about issues, think about how a type of music related to a period of time, etc.?
- who are some of the interesting people I've heard about and maybe want to know more about?

Narrowing your topic down

What am I going to write about this topic? What's my question?

Am I writing a summary about something or making an argument?



Some things to keep in mind:

- This is not a report. You aren't just laying out a bunch of facts and calling it a day.
- This is an analytical paper so you will need to make an argument about your topic.
- You **DON'T** need to know the exact question you're going to answer to start but you **DO** need to start thinking about some of the different subtopics or connections you could look into with your topic.

Getting started - NOTES

- Once you've chosen a topic, open the note sheet assigned to you in Google Classroom. That document will be where you take down all your notes and keep track of sources.

| |
|---|
| <p>Topic:</p> <p>Current area of focus:</p> <p>Central Question:</p> <p>Tentative thesis:</p> |
|---|

- At the top of the note sheet, fill in your broad **topic**.
- The **current area of focus** can EITHER be one specific thing (if you already know exactly what you want to look at about your topic) OR a bulleted list of ideas of different things you could possibly focus on for your paper.
- You do NOT need to touch **central question** or **tentative thesis** week 1. We will work on that in class together in week 2.

Getting started - NOTES

- Look over the instructions on the note sheet before you start.
 - Formatting
 - Sources
 - Paraphrasing & quotes
- Start taking your notes on the bottom half of the page.
 - First, write the source info
 - Then take down your notes on the source in bullets (save full sentences for quotes only)

Topic:

Current area of focus:

Central Question:

Tentative thesis:

Quick reminders as you start to take notes:

- Notes should be in bullet-point form, use 1.5 spacing, 12pt “Times” font
- Identify the source (it is MUCH harder to retrace your steps later so take the time to include the source info at the start)
- Read & then take notes
 - SUMMARIZE. Do NOT copy & paste any passages or sentences from an online source! You must write either **summary** statements or write **analysis** of the content from your sources. If you copy/paste directly from a source, you will receive no credit for this part of the assignment.
 - Use quotes any time you are taking notes on a source verbatim AND put the source info into your notes so you know where the quote came from (title of source, web address, page #, etc.)

Finding sources

You can either start with Google (remember the keyword search tips we talked about) OR the library databases.

- The library databases are listed on the resource page the librarians made for us. It's linked to the assignment in Google Classroom. Remember, databases are already vetted for you
- If you use Google, you should be assessing the source for its use/reliability

You will ultimately need a **minimum of 6 sources.**

SCRAP TEST

If your source fails in any of these areas, then **SCRAP IT** and find a new one!
(Starting with *Authoritative* will save you time.)

SOLID

- Does the source offer enough solid evidence to support the information?
- Can you verify the information through other *credible* sources?

CURRENT

- When was it published or revised—and are its sources current?
- Is currency important to your topic?

RELEVANT

- Does it provide the information you need?
- Is the depth of coverage and level appropriate (not too elementary; not too scholarly)?

AUTHORITATIVE

- What are the publisher's qualifications? (Check "ABOUT" or similar link.)
- What are the author's qualifications—for example, are they an expert, journalist, etc.?
- What do other websites say about the author and/or publisher?

PURPOSE

- What is the purpose: To inform, persuade, entertain, or sell?
- How does it make you feel? Does it cause strong emotions?
- Is bias or point of view clearly stated?

Note-taking

Writing a research paper and all that goes into it can feel overwhelming. At its base though, what I'm asking you to do to start is this:

1. Find **ONE** article/source.
2. **EITHER**
 - a. **Print it, then read it & highlight** information that seems important. Open your notes document and, **in bulleted form, write down the highlighted info in your notes** (in your own words.)
 - OR
 - b. Read a paragraph, think about what information is most important and then **take down the most important info in your notes** (in your own words.)
3. **Add the URL or source info to the notes right next to (not at the bottom of) your notes on the source.**
4. **Repeat** those steps with another article.


Goal for our in-class work days: find 1 source in class each day, read it and take notes.



Originality

(aka making sure everything that's in your notes is actually your own work...)


If you have run into issues in the past with putting notes into your own words, there are 3 websites linked to the “Originality checking” post. Each will allow you to copy/paste in a section of your notes to see if it gets flagged for plagiarism. It's not foolproof but it at least gives you a way to check before you turn it in.




Originality checking

Posted 10:08 AM


If you'd like to check your notes to make sure you're copy down things in your own words enough, here are 3 sites that let you do that.



Free Online Plagiarism C...
<https://www.check-plagiarism.c>



Free Plagiarism Checker ...
<https://writer.com/plagiarism-cl>



Succeed With Our Free P...
<https://plagiarism.studyclerk.co>

Overview of our timeline

December - January (S1)

Step 1: Research

- Find background sources (using databases, web, books, etc.) to get a general sense of your topic & the time period surrounding it.
- Start taking notes
- Complete central question, thesis, research question handout - 10 POINTS
- Find MORE sources (using databases, web, books, etc.)
- Take MORE notes (in your own words)
 - Complete halfway note check (3 p., bulleted, 1.5 spacing, 12pt Times New Roman) - 15 POINTS
- Find MORE sources and take MORE notes & complete final note check (total of 6+ p.)- 15 POINTS

January - February (S2)

Step 2: Outlining

- Start to organize your notes - think about how you want to map out your paragraphs & complete initial outline - 10 POINTS
- Write first draft of your intro paragraph & complete detailed outline - 40 POINTS

Step 3: Editing

- Based on Ms. Shen's feedback on your intro/outline, decide if you want to:
 - A. Edit & resubmit for additional feedback
 - OR
 - B. Start writing the paper.

March (S2)

Step 4: Writing

- Start a draft of your paper.
- Finish your draft & do a first round edit to your paper yourself. Also ask someone else to edit your paper.
- Read over the research paper requirements one more time. Make sure you've followed them.
- BE PROUD OF YOURSELF!

