

9th Literature/Composition Honors/Gifted
Spring 2009
Mrs. Kayse-Barrett

Research Paper Project—Civil Rights

For your research paper, you will choose among the many civil rights injustices that have happened in history or that may currently be happening. You may choose the topic that interests you from the attached list or one that you submit for approval. Your finished product will include a formal research paper that includes a very specific style of citations and Works Cited Page as well as a presentation of your topic, and an original children's book to accompany.

Research Process

- Gather information—locate sources
- Take notes on note cards and make source cards
- Write an outline
- Write a rough draft in stages—introduction, body, conclusion, and formulate a Works Cited Page using your source cards
- Type final paper

You should have your own materials by this point: Index Cards, Expandable folder, a highlighter, and some paperclips
Each step of the research paper will be graded.

Requirements

1. 5 or more sources of at least 3 different types (Internet, periodicals, encyclopedias, books, etc.
2. 4-5 typed pages (The final copy **must** be typed)
3. Double spaced, 12 point font, Times New Roman
4. One inch margins
5. Documentation using MLA format (author's last name and page number, e.g. (Kayse-Barrett 35))
6. Top, right header with your last name and page number on all pages except the first page

Components of Paper

1. **Introduction**- In the first paragraph of your paper, you should catch your reader's attention, draw them into your chosen topic, and state your thesis statement.
2. **History/Background**- Give an overview of your topic. Give a timeline of how the problem evolved.
3. **Resolution**- What happened to resolve the problem, and any legislation/ regulations that came out of this event.
4. **Conclusion**- Tie up the loose ends of your paper

Writing

This paper will be a formal writing assignment. You should follow all the rules of formal writing.

All your work should be original. Plagiarism is a severe offense, one that I take very seriously. Any time you use someone else's idea, you need to paraphrase it and still cite your source using parenthetical documentation. Direct quotations are occasionally appropriate and should be cited correctly also. It is **never** appropriate to copy and paste information from the Internet into your paper. Plagiarism will result in a zero on the paper **and** administrative action. Please review the honor code in your agenda book.

Presentation

You will present your research to the class in order to teach us about your topic. You may do this in any a variety of ways. Your presentation must be 5-10 minutes in length, but no longer. You must include a visual aid. Please make your presentation entertaining and informative. Extra points will be awarded for involving the class.

Children's Book

Children's books are very important in breaking down complex historical events in ways that children learn and understand. Your book must include artwork suitable for a child and narration suitable for a child. Remember to include words in the narration that children will understand but also include some words that they need to grow their vocabulary. Your finished product will be graded on creativity, neatness, and appropriateness of narration/vocabulary. Your book needs to look like a book, not just some paper stapled together.

3 Very Important Things to Remember:

- You **must** paraphrase the information you find in your own words unless you are directly quoting
- You **must** work on this paper in our presence when we allow class time for it. I **will not** accept written material done at home.
- You **must** type this paper **at school**. I **cannot** accept papers typed at home

Schedule and Deadlines

Feb. 18-19	Computer Lab—research
Feb. 20	Read/ Note taking day
Feb. 23-24	Computer Lab—finalize research Note card Check (15 note cards, 3 source cards)
Feb. 26-27	Outline (Due at the end of class on 27 th)
March 2	15 new note cards and 3 new source cards due Introductory Paragraph
March 3-6	Body Paragraphs (Due at end of class on March 9)
March 10	Conclusion (Due at end of class on March 10)
March 11	Works Cited Page (Due at end of class on March 11)
March 12-16	Final Draft Typing Dates
March 17-19	Presentation Dates
March 20	Children's Book Due