

Hero Research Project

# **SENIOR RESEARCH PAPER**

# A RESEARCH PAPER IS NOT...

- ✖ A summary of information from other sources.
- ✖ A rearrangement of information.
- ✖ A report that you might find in an encyclopedia.
- ✖ Cutting and pasting of information into a document.
- ✖ The results of one quick Google search.

# TOPICS OF STUDY

Choosing and  
Narrowing a Topic

Title

Gathering Material:  
Note-taking &  
Avoiding Plagiarism

Works Cited

Thesis Statement

Sources: Quotation,  
Paraphrasing,  
Summarizing

Types of Argument

Outline

# TOPIC

---

- ✖ When selecting a research topic, do not consider what will be the easiest route to take.
- ✖ When selecting a research topic, ask yourself questions about your passions.
- ✖ If you could study any subject or find out about anything in the world, what would it be?
- ✖ I would love to study and learn more about home & fashion design, Celtic mythology, WWII, Russia and the KGB, criminal profiling, ancient Egypt, and much more!

# NARROWING THE TOPIC

- ✖ General: Russia and the KGB
- ✖ Narrowed: KGB during the cold war.
- ✖ Focus: KGB spies operating or captured during the cold war.
- ✖ Research questions: What were KBG operatives doing during the cold war? If they were captured, what were they accused of and what happened to them?

# NARROWING THE TOPIC

Topic	World War II
Subtopics	Holocaust & Concentration Camps, Anne Frank, Adolf Hitler, Pearl Harbor, Resistance Efforts in Europe, Nazis, Axis Powers, Atom Bomb
Which subtopics are most interesting to you?	Resistance Efforts in Europe during WWII.
What new questions do you have about the subtopic?	Why weren't there more people opposed to the persecution of the Jews? How many groups or people tried to help stop the Holocaust? Who were they? What kind of difference did they really make?
Formulate a topic statement.	I will explore the resistance efforts in Europe during WWII specifically focusing on the rescuing of the Jewish people.

# HERO RESEARCH PROJECT

- For this project, we will define a hero as *someone who has overcome adversity to make a positive difference in the world*. In selecting a person to research, you should select someone you admire, someone who embodies the qualities of a hero. You should plan on becoming the class expert on this person.

# HERO REASERCH PROJECT

- It might be helpful to consider people who fit into these categories:

Politicians

Physicians

Attorneys

Inventors

Athletes

Entertainers

Artists

Authors

Musicians

Teachers

Business People

Activists

Scientists

Religious Leaders

Explorers

- When choosing your hero, be sure you are able to find plenty of information and sources for your project.

# CHOOSING A HERO

CHOOSING A HERO

- ✖ When you select a hero, be mindful that you will have to prove that this person made a difference in the world and therefore can be considered a hero.
- ✖ When writing your thesis statement, include language that shows you will why this person can be considered a hero.

# MY TOPIC

My Topic

Topic

Subtopics

Which subtopics are most interesting to you?

What new questions do you have about the subtopic?

Formulate a topic statement.

# GATHERING MATERIALS

- ✖ A good research paper requires many authentic and expert sources to be credible.
- ✖ Use original sources as much as possible.

Find sources:

- ✖ Libraries
- ✖ Computer resources
- ✖ Mass media
- ✖ Learning sites
- ✖ Government
- ✖ Research sites
- ✖ Conference sites
- ✖ Workplace

# **TYPES OF SOURCES**

**TYPE OF SOURCE**

- ❖ An original source:

- Diary

- Person

- Event

- Survey

- Etc.

- ❖ Not an original source:

- Magazine article

- Web site

- Encyclopedia

- journal

- Documentary

# CREDIBLE SOURCES

CREDIBLE SOURCES?

- ✖ Which of the following is the most credible source?
  - + The New York Times
  - + <http://www.opinionweekly.com>
- ✖ Which person is most believable?
  - + Jane Smith from Orlando, Floriday
  - + Dr. Jane Pauley, Prof. of Medical Sciences, University of Minnesota

# CREDIBLE SOURCES

CREATABLE SOURCES?

- ✖ Ask the following questions about your source to determine its credibility.
- ✖ When was the source published?
- ✖ Who is the author and what is his or her credentials?
- ✖ Who is the source's intended audience?
- ✖ Does the source show invalidated bias?
- ✖ What sort of references does the source list?

# CREDIBLE SOURCES

These are examples of sources that are a good place to start.

- ✖ Online articles from our ODIN database
- ✖ Journal articles
- ✖ Books

# WHAT IS PLAGIARISM

- Copying word for word from published sources without adequate documentation
- Using language and/or ideas from sources without adequate documentation
- Purchasing a pre-written paper
- Letting someone else write a paper for you
- Paying someone else to write a paper for you
- Submitting as your own someone else's published or unpublished work

# AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

- ✖ It is vital to all research papers that sources be integrated and cited correctly.
- ✖ You must give proper credit to quotes and all information you take from your sources.
- ✖ Take good notes and keep track of all your sources and page numbers to avoid plagiarism.

# NOTE TAKING

---

- ✖ It is important to take accurate notes and correctly label them.
- ✖ This will save you time and keep you organized when you write your paper.
- ✖ When note taking, take only fact fragments.
- ✖ If you take a quote be sure to use quote marks and page numbers.

# SUMMARY, PARAPHRASE, OR QUOTATION

- ✖ A summary gives an overview of the original ideas and is shorter than the original.
- ✖ A paraphrase restates all the original material in different words and is about as long as the original.
- ✖ A quotation contains the exact words of the source and contains quotation marks.

# NOTE TAKING

## Achilles: The Fate of Achilles

- ✖ In his Iliad, Homer does not explain what happened to Achilles. According to later legends (and bits and pieces of Homer's own Odyssey), the warrior returned to Troy after Hector's funeral to exact further revenge for Patroclus' death. However, the still-vengeful Apollo told Hector's brother Paris that Achilles was coming. Paris, who was not a brave warrior, ambushed Achilles as he entered Troy. He shot his unsuspecting enemy with an arrow, which Apollo guided to the one place he knew Achilles was vulnerable: his heel, where his mother's hand had kept the waters of the Styx from touching his skin. Achilles died on the spot, still undefeated in battle.
- ✖ [www.history.com](http://www.history.com), 1996-2013, A&E Television Networks, LLC. All Rights Reserved, Achilles

# Note Card Example

---

The Fate of Achilles

Source 1

- No explanation in Homer's Iliad.
- Legends give bits and pieces.
- Some say Paris ambushed him.
- Shot him in the only spot he was vulnerable – his heel.

Page #

**ASSIGNMENT**

---

# Required Assignment # 3

## Note Taking Practice

# THESIS STATEMENT

## THESES STATEMENTS

- ✖ tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the subject matter under discussion.
- ✖ is a road map for the paper; in other words, it tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper.
- ✖ directly answers the question asked of you. A thesis is an interpretation of a question or subject, not the subject itself. The subject, or topic, of an essay might be World War II or Moby Dick; a thesis must then offer a way to understand the war or the novel.
- ✖ makes a claim that others might dispute.
- ✖ is usually a single sentence somewhere in your first paragraph that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper, the body of the essay, gathers and organizes evidence that will persuade the reader of the logic of your interpretation.

# DEVELOPING A THESIS: EXAMPLE

Topic: Cyber-bullying

Position: Cyber-bullying should be a criminal, punishable offense in the United States

Reasons/Support/Topic Sentences for Position:

1. Cyber-bullying affects a staggering number of children and teenagers each year.
2. Due to the high presence of technology in Americans' lives, it is impossible for a victim to escape cyber-bullying.
3. Cyber-bullying can lead to serious health concerns, depression, anxiety, and even suicide.
4. Many young people are afraid to report cyber-bullying, and thus suffer in silence.
5. The majority of cyber-bullies are never punished due to a lack of laws and measures to protect victims.
6. Cyber-bullying is preventable with stricter social networking regulations and adult supervision.

# CYBER-BULLYING THESIS EXAMPLE

- ✖ Thesis Statement: *All of the reasons/ topic sentences above must connect to your thesis statement.*
- ✖ Cyber-bullying should be a criminal, punishable offense in the United States in order to protect the nation's children and teenagers.

**ASSIGNMENT**

---

# Required Assignment # 3

## Thesis Handout

# **TYPES OF ARGUMENT**

- ✖ Deductive
- ✖ Inductive
- ✖ Abductive

# DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENT

DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENT

- ✖ **Deductive Argument:** an argument where the conclusion follows validly from the premises. (In other words, an argument where truth of the premises guarantees truth of the conclusion.)
- ✖ **Example:**
  - ✖ All men are mortal
  - ✖ Socrates is a man      therefore...
  - ✖ Socrates is mortal

# INDUCTIVE ARGUMENT

- ✖ An argument where the premises point several cases of some pattern, and the conclusion states that this pattern will hold in general. (An inductive argument will not be deductively valid, because even if a pattern is found many times, that doesn't guarantee it will always be found. Therefore, an inductive argument provides weaker, less trustworthy support for the conclusion than a deductive argument does.)
- ✖ Example:
- ✖ We have seen 1000 swans, and all of them have been white
- ✖ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✖ All swans are white

# ABDUCTIVE (OR HYPOTHETICO-DEDUCTIVE) ARGUMENT

- ✖ An argument that (i) points out a certain fact, (ii) points out that if a certain hypothesis were true, we would get this fact, and so (iii) concludes that that hypothesis is indeed true. (Abductive arguments seem to make an even bigger jump than inductive arguments: inductive arguments generalize, while abductive arguments say that successful predictions ‘prove’ a theory is true. Abductive arguments are not deductively valid, because false theories can make true predictions, so true predictions do not guarantee that the theory is true.)
- ✖ Example:
- ✖ These coins conduct electricity (fact)
- ✖ If these coins are made of gold (hypothesis), then they would conduct electricity (prediction).
- ✖ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✖ \_\_\_\_\_
- ✖ These coins are made of gold.

# OUTLINE

---

- ✖ Aids in the process of writing
- ✖ Helps you organize your ideas
- ✖ Presents your material in a logical form
- ✖ Shows the relationships among ideas in your writing
- ✖ Constructs an ordered overview of your writing
- ✖ Defines boundaries and groups

# SAMPLE OUTLINE

## THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

### I. CHOOSE DESIRED COLLEGES

- A. Visit and evaluate college campuses
- B. Visit and evaluate college websites
  - 1. Look for interesting classes
  - 2. Note important statistics

### II. PREPARE APPLICATION

- A. Write personal statement
  - 1. Choose interesting topic
    - a. Describe an influential person in your life
      - (1) Favorite high school teacher
      - (2) Grandparent
  - 2. Include important personal details
    - a. Volunteer work
    - b. Participation in varsity sports

### B. Revise personal statement

### III. COMPILE RÉSUMÉ

- A. List relevant coursework
- B. List work experience
- C. List volunteer experience
  - 1. Tutor at foreign language summer camp
  - 2. Counselor for suicide prevention hotline

**ASSIGNMENT**

---

# Required Assignment # 4

## Outline Practice

# WORKS CITED

## WORKS CITED

- ✖ Arrange your sources in alphabetical order by the author's last name. If an entry has two or three authors, use the first author's last name.
- ✖ An entry that has no author should be alphabetized by the first word of the article title, not counting *A*, *An*, or *The*.
- ✖ If you have more than one source by the same author, alphabetize these by their article titles.
- ✖ Capitalize all major words in the titles of books, articles, etc.
- ✖ Begin the first line of each entry at the left margin, and indent succeeding lines of each entry five spaces from the left margin.
- ✖ **Double space the entire page, between and within entries.**
- ✖ Center the words Works Cited at the top of the page, but don't italicize or underline them.

# WORKS CITED EXAMPLE

## Works Cited

Baker, Gladys L., Wayne D. Rasmussen, Vivian Wiser, and Jane M. Porter.

Century of Service: The First 100 Years of the United States

Department of Agriculture. [Federal Government], 1996. Print.

Danhof, Clarence H. Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States,

1820-1870. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1969. Print.

Demaree, Albert Lowther. The American Agricultural Press 1819-1860.

New York: Columbia UP, 1941. Print.

# PARENTHETICAL CITATION

- After paraphrasing or summarizing information which is not common knowledge or inserting a quotation, you must use parenthetical citations/ documentation. Parenthetical refers to parentheses and documentation refers to the corresponding Works Cited entry. It is also known as an internal citation or parenthetical citation.

# PARENTHETICAL CITATION EXAMPLE

- ✖ This sentence was **paraphrased** from an article in an encyclopedia. The complete title of the article is “Technological Advances in the American Computer Industry”:
- ✖ Even though the technology for screens has been around for decades, only in the last few years have manufacturers figured out a way to produce them cheaply for computers (“Technological Advances” 185).

# INTEGRATING SOURCES

INTEGRATING 200 BCE?

Use a variety of lead-ins to introduce concepts or findings from researchers:

1. *According to Smith (2001)*, the presence of a television set in the home even changed eating habits; frozen TV dinners, TV trays, and TV tables altered the physical and social contexts of family meals.
2. By the early 1960's, "*90 percent of all households had at least one television set*" (*Bishop & Marx, 2006, p. 2*).
3. Television programs and commercials reinforced rigid gender roles and promised consumers material wealth if they could fit the roles. One social critic from the era remarked that "*television certainly nurtured both consumerism and conformity*" (*Cole, 1966, p. 24*).

**ASSIGNMENT**

---

# Required Assignment # 5

## MLA Practice

# **IMPORTANCE OF TITLE**

- ✖ Leave your title off until the end of your paper.
- ✖ The title of a research paper can be wordy because you want it to be informative. Look back at your topic sentence and thesis sentence for ideas.
- ✖ Make sure your title catches the audience's attention and makes them want to read.

**ASSIGNMENT**

---

# Required Assignment #6

## Top Ten List