

Assignment

Research Paper

During the next several lessons you will be writing a research paper on a topic that you choose from a list of research questions. The paper will be 3–4 pages long and will be followed by a list of works cited on its own page.

Check your Notebook document for more information on how to choose one of the following questions as your topic. Here is the list of research questions:

- Overall, how are young people affected by their participation in social media?
- What philosophies, thinkers, and documents most influenced the writers of the United States Constitution?
- Why have some cities been more successful than others in reducing homelessness?
- What effect do teenage curfews have on crime and public safety?

Follow these guidelines in structuring your paper:

- Include an introduction that presents the topic, engages readers' attention, and poses the research question as its thesis.
- Include body paragraphs that achieve the following:
 - Feature evidence, drawn from credible and relevant sources, that answers the research question posed in the thesis.
 - Contain synthesized information from at least three different sources.
 - Establish clear relationships among facts, reasons, and evidence.
 - Contain correctly formatted in-text citations to at least three different sources.
- Include a conclusion that
 - Summarizes the major points of the body paragraphs
 - Re-asks the research question posed in the introduction
 - Answers the research question based on the findings of the paper
- Includes a works-cited page that
 - Includes at least three sources from both print and digital sources
 - Use MLA format to correctly document all sources
 - Supplies full source information corresponding to all the in-text citations
- In terms of mechanics, the paper should
 - Use formal language and an objective tone.
 - Follow the rules for grammar and usage.

Your paper will be scored by your teacher using the Research Paper Grading Rubric. Look at the rubric yourself so that you know how your writing will be scored.

You will begin your assignment today. Follow the steps of the process to complete the assignment. You will turn in your work as a Teacher-Graded Assignment.

Planning

Choose your research question. Consult the Notebook document for details.

Conducting Research

Begin gathering information on your topic by searching online and print sources. Organize your sources and your notes. Create an outline for your paper. Evaluate your research process for criteria such as the relevance of your details and the effectiveness of your organizational plan.

Drafting

Write the first draft of your research paper, and remember to save often. Use your outline as a guide. Keep your audience in mind, considering their level of prior knowledge about the material. Synthesize your research by

making connections between sources. Make sure you provide sufficient, credible, and relevant evidence to support your analysis. Use transitions and organization to establish the relationships among your ideas and between ideas and evidence. Include in-text citations and a works-cited page.

When you've finished the draft, you will share it with one or more readers to get feedback for revision.

Revising

Revise your first draft. Review the feedback you received, and decide which comments you agree with so that you can revise accordingly. After revising, use online checklist to make sure you have done the best revision you can.

Revise your paper for content, organization, and language. Check for cohesion in your organization of ideas. Make sure you have used formal language and maintained an objective tone throughout. Revise for clarity and variety in sentence structure and diction as necessary. Double-check all in-text citations and works cited entries for correct MLA format.

Proofreading and Publishing

Proofread your draft using the online checklist. Then submit your final draft, as well as your planning documents.

Think of ways to share your research paper with readers.

Submit Your Assignment

Your teacher will score your assignment using the Research Paper Grading Rubric. Look at the rubric yourself so that you know how your assignment will be scored.

Check with your teacher regarding the date you need to turn in the assignment. Follow the instructions in the Graded Assignment to complete the paper and submit it to your teacher for grading.