

# Freshman Research Project

"Choose a topic that is a problem or current concern in our world. After thinking about and researching your topic, you will write a paper that states the issue and develops a position on this topic. You will provide a reasoned argument to support your position. Use facts, statistics, examples, and quotations from research to support your view."

## *Part One: Choosing a Topic (20 pts)*

Students should choose a topic unique to their bell (not unique to all of ninth grade). This topic should be about a current or topical problem or concern to our world and society today.

Examples of topics are:

- o Air Pollution
- o Smoking
- o Terrorism
- o School Violence
- o Cell Phones
- o Stress
- o Depression
- o Animal Maltreatment
- o School Uniforms
- o Hate crimes
- o Sports enhancement drugs / Doping

## Brainstorming

Students should have a review of how to brainstorm... not just once they have a topic, but how to come up with a topic. Start broad and work down into more narrowed focuses until you can identify one problem or concern to our world.

## *Part Two: Proposal Memo (50 Points)*

Students will compose a memo email in appropriate format (see below) which designates what their topic will be and request permission to proceed.

To be included:

- o Thesis statement
- o Description of origination of research (where will they get the stuff?)
- o A small amount of background why this is a problem or concern worth looking into.

Based upon this memo, students will either have their project accepted or returned for revision.

Date: Due Date Here

To: Mr. Becksfort (mbecksfort@mariemontschools.org)

From: Freshman Student (you)

Subject: Research Topic

Include the information from the bullet points above.

## Part Three: Notecards (50 Points)

### Source Cards

These are the card that students will create for each source. One should include all the information that they need to include in their MLA Bibliography. (see example below)

Author	Letter
<u>Title of Journal, Book, etc.</u>	
"Title of Article"	
Publisher, database, or Edition (journals)	
Page Numbers (Journals)	
Copyright Date / Date of Publication	
Date of Access (for online Sources)	

### Information Cards

These should reference the source and include page and/or section identification so that the student can correctly cite their sources. (see example below)

Page # / "NP" for internet	Outline Order
"Quote from the text... Quote from the text... Quote from the text... Quote from the text... Quote from the text... Quote from the text... Quote from the text..."	
DQ	

The back of card should have source Letter written in a large Letter!

### *Part Four: Outline (80 points)*

The outline should follow the [3.5 Outline format](#). This is available in the document by that name or by clicking the link above. Be sure students include inline quote information with the supports.

### *Part Five: Works Cited*

The works cited page takes the source cards and converts them into a one sheet list of all the sources you used in your paper.

### *Part Six: Draft (100 points)*

The draft is written in prose format. It follows the [3.5 Essay format](#). It also involves students converting their outlines with support into a viable working version of a written paper. The draft should be checked not only for grammar and mechanics, but also for quote integration (which should be taught prior to assigning this section).

### *Part Seven: Final with Works Cited (150 points)*

Complete the revisions needed on the draft and turn it in with the works cited attached.