

Introduction to the Freshman Honors Research Paper

Task: To investigate a famous and controversial trial. You will learn about the defendants and plaintiffs in your case, and the attorneys who tried it. You will also report on the time period that the trial took place, and this factored into the controversy. Finally, you will examine the trial and ascertain how it has shaped our world today.

Final Product: A 5-7 page paper, typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font with 5 inch margins.

This paper will be a major part of your fourth quarter grade.

Due Date: Friday, February 29

Supplies you will need:

- 1 pack of lined white index cards
- 1 pack of lined colored index cards (you can share)
- An index card holder with tab dividers
- A folder or binder to keep research in (separate from your regular English binder).

Skills you will learn:

1. Paraphrasing (as an alternate to direct quotation): Taking research and putting it in your own words.
2. The notecard process: How to complete a research paper using this system.
3. Navigating the High School Library: Our library has many resources and this will give you an introduction to those resources.

Paper Expectations:

1. You should plan to use at least five sources throughout the scope of your paper. This is the minimum requirement, so of course using more is an excellent idea. You will need to create a notecard (colored) for each source.
2. You should plan on using at least 3 citations per section of your paper. You will need to use at least one of each kind (direct quote and paraphrase) in each section. You will need to create a notecard (white) for each of your citations.

Information you will need to find:

1. **Controversy** – what about this trial or its participants was controversial? Was it an unusual crime, was there something unique about the defendant or plaintiff, or did this case spur a change in law?
2. **Time period** – What about this moment in time and place made this trial unique? How did it influence the participants in the trial?
3. **Defendants and plaintiffs** – Who were these people? Why did they commit the crime they did? What was their background?
4. **Attorneys** – How did they come to be involved with this case? How did they feel about being involved in it? How did the case change them?
5. **Outcome of the trial** – What was the final verdict? What happened to the defendant? What about the other people involved in the trial? What were the effects of this verdict on the world at large?

Dates you need to know:

Thursday, January 24 – Introduction to the research paper

Tuesday, January 29 – Library; Pre-search

Wednesday, January 30 – Library; continue pre-search

Thursday, January 31– **DUE:** Memo reserving topic and three articles
Notecard Instruction in class

Friday, February 1 – **DUE:** Paraphrasing Practice
Library - Research

Monday, February 4 – **DUE:** Two additional sources (Five sources total)

Wednesday, February 6 – **DUE:** 15 notecards from research

Thursday, February 7 – **DUE:** Thesis statement

Monday, February 11 – **DUE:** 20 correct Info Cards and 5 Source Cards

Tuesday, February 12 – Library; work on outline

Wednesday, February 13 – Library; work on outline

Thursday, February 14 – **DUE:** Outline I-III Typed

Tuesday, February 19 – Library; finish outline

Wednesday, February 20 – **DUE:** Final Outline and Annotated Works Consulted

Thursday, February 21 – Library; Work on Intro and first two body paragraphs

Friday, February 22 – Library; **DUE:** Intro and two body paragraphs

Tuesday, February 26 – Library

Wednesday, February 27 – **DUE:** Typed Rough Draft

Friday, February 29 – RESEARCH PAPER DUE

****LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED****

