

11th Grade Research Writing -Assignment

Mr. Nordquist

Overview:

In academic research writing, the writer makes a claim, or thesis, about a topic and supports this idea through the use of valid evidence. As a part of this paper, the writer tries to persuade the reader to agree with his or her thesis.

Research writing is information backed by evidence and analysis. Every student has the opportunity to choose their individual research topic from the list below. Students will have some class time to work on each section of this paper, but anything not finished in class becomes homework.

Task: Write a research paper which presents and explores a specific claim related to the topic, and defends the claim with evidence from research. The paper must follow and exemplify CEC (claim, evidence, commentary) model of argument, and follow APA citations style and documentation.

Due Date:

March 9, 2020

Requirements:

Sources: You must use at least **three sources, two of which are from the library research database.**

Page length: 3-4 typed pages, double-spaced, exclusive of the Works Cited page

Margins: One-inch margins

Font: 12-point font New Times Roman

Format: APA

Point of View: Third person only

Must be submitted to: Turnitin.com

Discovery phase: choosing a topic

Brainstorming: In order to start thinking about your assignment, you need to explore the ideas listed. Select one or two ideas that might interest you the most and look online to see what kind of information you will find. **You cannot use the following cites: Ask, Answers, Blogs, Ehow. Safe cites end in .org, .edu, .gov. You may use sources found at the bottom of a Wikipedia page-not Wikipedia itself. When in doubt, ask the teacher.**

Check out Eagle High’s library website for a list of reliable/valid sources. You will find this under “Research Databases”.

You must find **AT LEAST 3** valid sources on your topic, You should have at least 2 direct quotes and 1 paraphrase with correct in-text citations. Again, these can be in the form of newspaper articles, journal articles, magazine articles, books, documentaries etc.

Research Paper Topics

1. **Adoption & Foster Care:** Is adoption and foster care an effective system?
2. **Artificial Intelligence:** Is the use of artificial intelligence the best way to improve the United States economy?
3. **ACT or SAT Score Requirements:** Are these tests the best way to determine acceptance into a university?
4. **Climate Change:** Is climate change an issue that we should be concerned about?
5. **Alternate Energy:** Is alternate energy a better solution to our energy needs?
6. **Alternative Medicine:** Does alternative medicine provide a better outcome than regular medicines?
7. **Animal Cloning:** Is animal cloning a good idea?
8. **Animal Cruelty:** Are our laws strong enough against animal cruelty?
9. **Professional Athletes:** Is the pay received by professional athletes fair?
10. **College Athletes:** Should college athletes be paid for playing?
11. **Smart Watches:** Will smart watches eventually replace cell phones?
12. **Cell Phones:** Is it better for people to just be able to access information rather than really knowing it?
13. **Chain Stores:** Are chain stores ruining the economy of the community?
14. **Copyrights laws and technology:** Have copyright laws been effectively changed to keep up with the use of technology?

15. **Data Collection:** Should the government/NSA be allowed to collect our personal data for security reasons?
16. **Gasoline Powered Transportation:** Will this remain the most effective energy source into the future?
17. **Aging:** Should scientists try to help people beat old age so we can live longer?
18. **Electronic Messaging:** Is electronic messaging affecting teen literacy?
19. **United States Airport Security-** Has the increase in security made air travel safer?
20. **Minimum Wage:** Is raising minimum wage the answer to poverty/low income people's problems?
21. **Drones & Warfare:** Should the United States continue drone strikes in foreign countries?
22. **Technology:** Does technology make us more isolated?
23. **Nuclear energy:** Is nuclear energy being used effectively in the United States?
24. **Arts Education:** Is arts education important?
25. **Endangered Species:** Are we over protecting endangered species?
26. **Fad Diets:** Should there be federal regulations on fad diets?
27. **Immunization:** Should parents be forced to immunize their children?
28. **Foreign Aid:** Is America spending too much on foreign aid?
29. **Genetically Modified Foods:** Should genetically modified foods be expanded?
30. **Government Bailouts:** Are government bailouts beneficial?
31. **Healthcare:** Is Health Care Reform really working?
32. **Military Draft:** Is a mandatory military draft beneficial?
33. **Job Outsourcing:** Should American companies stop outsourcing jobs?
34. **Texting & Driving:** Should those who are caught texting and driving be put in jail?
35. **Video Game Addiction:** Is video game addiction a real thing?
36. **Women's Rights:** Are women underpaid or overlooked because of their gender?
37. **College:** Is pushing high school students to go to college the best thing?
38. **Official Language:** Should the United States have an official language?
39. **Bilingual Education:** Should bilingual education be taught in schools?
40. **Melting Pot:** Should America be a melting pot or a salad bowl?
41. **City on a Hill:** Is America still the "City on a Hill"? Defend your answer.
42. **Innovative Education in K-12:** Should this replace our current system?
43. **Stem Cell Research:** Should this practice be expanded to improve the quality of life?
44. **Wind Energy:** Should this type of energy become more extensively developed in the United States?
45. **Pollution:** Do stricter regulations need to be enforced?

- 46. **Schools of the Future:** Do schools of the future need to change to become more effective?
- 47. **Innovative Farming:** Do farming practices need to change in the United States to meet the needs to the future?
- 48. **University Tuition:** Should all universities have a cap on how much they can charge per year?
- 49. **Placement by age vs. Placement by Academic Ability in Schools:** Is our current system giving students the best opportunities?
- 50. **Service Animals:** Should service animals be allowed in all public places?

Rubric:

Category	4	3	2	1	0
Introduction ____ / 15 points	<input type="checkbox"/> Strong hook statement <input type="checkbox"/> Topic is clear <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis statement provides a clear ‘road map’.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hook statement exists but not strong enough to hook the reader in <input type="checkbox"/> Topic is fairly clear <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis statement is a starting ‘road map’	<input type="checkbox"/> The paper dives right in, it does not hook the reader in <input type="checkbox"/> Topic is not clear, needs work <input type="checkbox"/> Thesis statement is not a clear ‘road map’	<input type="checkbox"/> No hook sentence <input type="checkbox"/> No topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Brief, unclear thesis statement	<input type="checkbox"/> No paper submitted or there is no introduction
Conclusion ____ / 15 points	<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis is restated in an effective way (not copied and pasted) <input type="checkbox"/> Main points are highlighted <input type="checkbox"/> Call to action hooks the audience at the end	<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis is restated <input type="checkbox"/> Main points are briefly stated <input type="checkbox"/> No strong call to action	<input type="checkbox"/> Thesis is not restated in the first sentence of the conclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Main points are witnessed but difficult to ascertain <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion does not end with a call to action	<input type="checkbox"/> No restatement of thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Main points are not included <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion just ends abruptly	<input type="checkbox"/> No paper submitted or no conclusion
Body Paragraph #1 ____ / 20 points	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence is clear <input type="checkbox"/> Student has a strong claim <input type="checkbox"/> Vetted evidence used to support the claim	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence could be clearer <input type="checkbox"/> Claim is merged with the topic sentence and does not stand alone	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence does not introduce what that paragraph will be about. <input type="checkbox"/> There is a weak claim, or it is merged with the topic sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> No topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> No specific claim is made <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is not used or weak	<input type="checkbox"/> No paper submitted, only one partial paragraph

	<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis is thoughtful and explains why the evidence supports the claim <input type="checkbox"/> Transition sentence helps the reader to know what is coming next	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is used but questionable <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis could be stronger in explaining why it links everything together <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a strong transition sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is either not used or is highly questionable <input type="checkbox"/> No strong attempt at analysis seen <input type="checkbox"/> Weak transition sentence.	<input type="checkbox"/> No analysis attempted <input type="checkbox"/> No transition sentence, paragraph just ends	
Body Paragraph #2 ____ / 20 points	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence is clear <input type="checkbox"/> Student has a strong claim <input type="checkbox"/> Vetted evidence used to support the claim (quote or paraphrase) <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis is thoughtful and explains why the evidence supports the claim <input type="checkbox"/> Transition sentence helps the reader to know what is coming next	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence could be clearer <input type="checkbox"/> Claim is merged with the topic sentence and does not stand alone <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is used but questionable <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis could be stronger in explaining why it links everything together <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a strong transition sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence does not introduce what that paragraph will be about. <input type="checkbox"/> There is a weak claim, or it is merged with the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is either not used or is highly questionable <input type="checkbox"/> No strong attempt at analysis seen <input type="checkbox"/> Weak transition sentence.	<input type="checkbox"/> No topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> No specific claim is made <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is not used or weak <input type="checkbox"/> No analysis attempted <input type="checkbox"/> No transition sentence, paragraph just ends	<input type="checkbox"/> No paper submitted, only one full paragraph
Body Paragraph #3 ____ / 20 points	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence is clear <input type="checkbox"/> Student has a strong claim <input type="checkbox"/> Vetted evidence used to support the claim <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis is thoughtful and explains why the evidence supports the claim <input type="checkbox"/> Transition sentence helps the reader to know what is coming next	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence could be clearer <input type="checkbox"/> Claim is merged with the topic sentence and does not stand alone <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is used but questionable <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis could be stronger in explaining why it links everything together <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of a strong transition sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> Topic sentence does not introduce what that paragraph will be about. <input type="checkbox"/> There is a weak claim, or it is merged with the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is either not used or is highly questionable <input type="checkbox"/> No strong attempt at analysis seen <input type="checkbox"/> Weak transition sentence.	<input type="checkbox"/> No topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> No specific claim is made <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence is not used or weak <input type="checkbox"/> No analysis attempted <input type="checkbox"/> No transition sentence, paragraph just ends	<input type="checkbox"/> No paper submitted, only two paragraphs

APA Citations ____ / 5 points	<input type="checkbox"/> Every single piece of evidence is cited correctly in APA format (in-text)	<input type="checkbox"/> An attempt of evidence being cited correctly in APA can be seen	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of APA citations and evidence made within the paper	<input type="checkbox"/> An attempt at citations potentially made but not in APA	<input type="checkbox"/> No APA citations, or citations at all
Reference Page ____ / 5 points	<input type="checkbox"/> Three strong sources are used within the paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Two strong sources are used within the paper	<input type="checkbox"/> One strong source is used within the paper	<input type="checkbox"/> No sources are used as evidence and/or cited in the reference page	<input type="checkbox"/> No sources used and no paper submitted