The Research Paper
ENGL 1302
Instructions and Topics

- **Overview**: You must complete and submit all assignments leading up to the final draft of your paper. All assignments should be typed, double spaced in either Times Roman or Arial fonts, 12 point size. Make sure to indent each paragraph and have a one inch margin all around.

You will be required to submit the following (Please send me either a Word file or an rtf file. My system cannot read wps (Works) files.):

- An annotated bibliography. Submitted through Blackboard by the beginning of class.
- A “first try” of the paper THIS IS NOT A ROUGH DRAFT. Submitted through Blackboard by the beginning of class.
- A final paper. Submitted through Blackboard by the beginning of class.
- A 10-minute presentation whereby you educate the rest of the class on your research topic.

CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS FOR DUE DATES FOR EACH PART.

- **Objectives**: The primary objectives for this unit are that you learn how to research a project, how to organize research information, and how to integrate and document the results of your research into a logical, coherent, well-structured paper that is relatively free of spelling and grammatical mistakes. The final product must be a research paper **not less than 8 complete pages long** – not including title page, proposal and works cited page (written in your own writing style and in your own words. The final copy must exhibit attention to audience (reader), and must clearly develop and support the main idea/purpose as set out in the introduction. Approximately 50% of the grade of your paper is dependent on correct MLA citations and a correct MLA Works Cited page. The other 50% will be dependent on the content of your paper, your grammar and punctuation, logically and thoroughly developed paragraphs (and overall essay) and good word choice.

- **Plagiarism is punishable by being dropped from the course with an “F,” referral to the Dean and possible expulsion from EPCC.**

**TOPICS**

You may choose a topic of your own, but make sure you submit your topic and the approach you want to take for the topic to your instructor by the due date (see schedule of assignments). No two students can write on the same topic. Please **DO NOT** write on the following:
- capital punishment
- euthanasia or suicide or capital punishment
- abortion,
- birth control education or birth control availability in schools

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legalizing marijuana or any other drug or drugs in general (cartels, trafficking, war on...)
lowering/raising the drinking age
steroid use;
obesity (either adult or childhood)
anorexia or bulimia
religion or religious topics
the connection between violence & video games or or violence & tv/movies
global warming
gay marriage
animal cruelty
extinct animals or animals in general (this is so 7th grade)
schizophrenia
9/11 or the Iraq war
Ted Bundy or Jeffrey Dahmer (but other serial killers are ok)
Hitler or the German Holocaust
911 or events related to it
Extraterrestrials (I can watch Ancient Aliens for myself, thank you)
Greek gods
Gun control
Immigration or anything related to it
Anything on drug cartels or the war on drugs (BORING)

If you are having trouble finding a topic, ask your instructor for suggestions. You will turn in your research topic in research proposal form. You will type a one page summary (no title page needed) whereby you identify the following items:
- Your topic
- Your reason for choosing it (one paragraph at least)
- What you already know about the topic (one paragraph at least)
- What you want to know about your topic (one paragraph at least)

YOUR FILE MUST BE A WORD FILE OR .RTF FILE.

The due date to turn in my topic is ________________

Annotated Bibliography

You are required to have 10 sources for this assignment. At least one of your sources should be a hard copy source, that is, it should be a book or magazine. You will be given instructions on how to develop your annotated bibliography. It should be prepared following MLA rules. This is a detail intensive assignment and you should be careful with the format of this assignment. Remember these are sources that you are considering using, not necessarily the ones that you will actually use in your paper. Remember that different tabs of the same web site is considered ONE source. Different chapters of the same book by the same author is considered ONE SOURCE.

At least one of your sources has to contain current data, that is, it must have been written within the last year or so. The due date for this is ________________
DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!

First Try

This is your first “Shot” at the research paper. This is a complete research paper with in-text citations, and a Works Cited Page NOT A ROUGH DRAFT. You should have at least 4 sources in your Works Cited Page

Emphasis will be placed on the content of the paper, proper essay structure, and proper grammar and essay structure at this point in terms of how it is graded. (Will account for approximately 30% of the grade, MLA counts for 20% of the grade I will, however, let you know if you’re doing ok with the MLA in-text citations and Works Cited page even though I won’t count off major points for incorrect formatting at this time.

Please keep in mind this is a major grade so don’t blow it off. I will give you some comments on this paper, but not many.

Regarding sources: no more than two sources can be personal interviews or video material.

YOU WILL TURN IN THIS PAPER VIA BLACKBOARD BY THE BEGINNING OF CLASS. NO PRINTED COPY IS NECESSARY.

I will grade this paper, give you feedback on it and hand it back to you. If you are satisfied with the grade, you do not need to turn in the final assignment. I will count this grade twice. If, however, you want to revise it and turn it in for possibly a higher grade, you can and turn it in as your final assignment.

The due date for this is:____________________

Grading Rubic for your info:
Content including proper essay structure and paragraphs (30%)
MLA in-text citations and Works Cited (30%)
Proper grammar and punctuation (20%)
Good word choice, varied sentence structure (20%)

Final TRY Research Assignment

If you were not satisfied with your research paper grade, you can revise your paper and re-submit it for re-grading.

This paper should have a title page, the essay itself, a works cited page, and your first try (it should be marked first try so I can distinguish it from the final copy). The paper should be no less than 8 pages long not including the works cited page and the title page. You should submit your paper with those elements in that order.

Your final paper should include at least four (4) sources from your annotated bibliography. The sources you use should be included within your paper as in-text citations and in your
works cited page. You must have in-text citations (parenthetical citations of your sources) in your paper.

The paper is due EXACTLY at the beginning of class. You will submit it through Blackboard. **You will also bring to class a folder with**
- your first try graded paper
- any forms from the writing center
- a printed copy of your last try paper that is marked “Final Paper

The due date for this assignment is ____________________________

**Grading Rubric for your info:**
MLA citations and Works Cited Page: 50%
Paper Content including proper essay structure and well developed paragraphs: 25%
Proper Grammar, Punctuation, good word choice and varied sentence structure 25%

**Presentation**

You should plan to give a 10-minute presentation. You should time yourself to make sure you don’t run under time or too much over time. You should make the presentation creative and you should engage the class in your presentation. You should also be able to pronounce all the words in your presentation. You will earn absolutely no points if you simply play a video or read off of a manuscript.

I will present on ________________________

**Please note:** If we are in a classroom that does not already have a computer, I will have to request a media cart. The thing is, the media carts or the internet on the media carts sometimes don’t work properly so….be sure you have a “Plan B” just in case the media cart fails you.

Also, if you are not presenting, you are still required to attend class. If you are not a presenter, you will get an A for your daily grade for showing up and an F if you have an unexcused absence.

**Other information:**

Other research related activities will count as extra credit towards your research grade. They will consist of the following:

- Research proposal
- handouts we will work on in class
- library orientation (you must attend – I’ll let you know when we’re scheduled)
- grammar and punctuation reviews (we’ll do this in class)
- MLA tests (you can use your notes or research book)