

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 – all related to the topic you pick:

- A research proposal
- An annotated bibliography
- Your research paper

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 6 pages long** – not including title page, proposal and Reference page (written in your own writing style and in your own words. You need no less than 5 sources – more is fine, less is not. 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 APA citations and a correct APA Reference 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. Of course, you will receive a zero for the particular assignment**

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
- 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 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 you can choose another serial killer
- Hitler or the German Holocaust – but you can choose any other holocaust
- 911 or events related to it
- Extraterrestrials (I can watch Ancient Aliens for myself, thank you)
- Greek gods
- Gun control
- The border wall (it just pisses me off)
- Fitness and nutrition – unless it's something new and exciting
- Child birth

Please check your Schedule of Assignments for the due date for your research proposal.

Yes, I know you're probably saying, "Aw man, we can't write on ANYTHING." Actually, I just removed the same old, loser high school topics that people pick. I want you to learn new stuff. Learning about new things helps you to grow intellectually and personally.

You, do, however, have a whole world of topics to choose from. Pick something you like and that you would like to know more about. Don't pick something super huge like "soccer" or "fashion" because you'd have to write several books to cover the subjects.

I'll send you or post up a copy of the topics I have had to jog your mind about what you'd like to explore. If you want me to give you a topic, just let me know through course message along with two or three things you like to do.

Once you've picked your topic, you will have a research proposal assignment to do. I've posted the assignment instructions. If you don't turn in a research topic, I'll assign one to you.

Annotated Bibliography (on the topic you picked)

You are required to have 8 sources for this assignment. You will be given instructions on how to develop your annotated bibliography in week two. It should be prepared following APA 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.

Check your schedule of assignments for the due date (you'll have more information about this assignment in another week's folder).

DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA or BLOGS!

Research Paper (on the topic you picked)

This is a complete 6 page research paper with in-text citations, and a Reference page. You should have at least 5 sources in your Reference page

- Your Research Paper should have a title page that contains your name, the title of your paper, and the date
- Your Research paper (in APA format) You should have a 1" margin all around.
- You end the 6 complete pages. This does not include your title page or your Reference page.
- You need no less than 5 sources

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

Check your schedule of assignments for the due date.

Grading Rubric for your info:

Content including proper essay structure and paragraphs (30%)

APA in-text citations and Works Cited (30%)

Proper grammar and punctuation (20%)

Good word choice, varied sentence structure (20%)

Note: you will get extra credit if you check your paper through Grammarly and send me a copy of the essay with the corrections the program asked you to do – you will turn it in as a separate attachment when you turn in your research paper.

You will also get extra credit if you get help from the Writing Center. Please let your tutor know that I need to know from them that you requested their assistance. They can send me a message at gestra30@epcc.edu