

Language Arts 4A – Research Paper

Prompt:

Choose an issue that you are passionate about to research and explore deeply, understand causes and effects, and evaluate the current solutions to draw a conclusion about how the issue should be addressed.

Structure:

1. Your response will take the form of a “White Paper” which, according to the Purdue OWL, is “authoritative and informative in nature. Writers typically use this genre when they argue a specific position or propose a solution to a problem” (“White Paper”).
2. You will need to help the reader understand your issue, problem, or policy alternatives and guide the reader regarding solving the problem or making a decision.
3. Paper should be 5-7 pages, double-spaced, using MLA format and citations
4. You will need a well-developed, interesting and engaging introduction that leads into a complex, sophisticated thesis statement that completely answers all parts of the prompt
5. You will need a well-developed, interesting and persuasive conclusion that leaves your reader feeling inspired to help

*Note: This paper is NOT a summary of your research. You must give your reader sufficient background in order to understand your issue **and then** you must **argue** for a specific solution, that is, according to research, the best.*

Body Paragraphs

- *1-2 paragraphs - **Background*** (brief introduction of issue including relevant background/terminology/things your reader may need to know before they can keep reading)
- *1-2 paragraphs - **Introduction to Problem*** (general introduction to subject of paper – explain the actual issue. Causes? Effects? Why is this a problem? Who or what is affected?)
- *2-4 paragraphs – **Proposed/Current Solutions and Evaluation** of EACH – (introduction of how problem is currently being addressed AND opinion on what is or is not working)*
 - Describe solutions separately and include how they help solve the problem, the benefits of solution, and potential drawbacks
- *1-2 paragraphs **Future Direction / Long-Term Focus*** {thoughts regarding the overall future direction of the problem and solution}
 - Your recommendation of one solution over others & the advantages it has over the rest – why does the research and YOU think this is the best way to address this problem?

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ELA Standards to be assessed	Task Assigned	Date Due
4.1a. Define and narrow a topic for self-designed research.	Brainstorm Chart & Topic Selection	11/17
4.1b. Critique research questions of self and others for bias and underlying assumptions.	Essential question formed Critique in-class	11/27
	Two physical sources printed and brought to class	11/30
4.1c. Critique and defend sources and information based on credibility, relevance and appropriateness relative to context and purpose.	Annotated Works Cited must include: 1. 6 credible sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min. 3 from Online database or periodical • Other credible sources 	12/1
2.2c. Use reading and note-taking strategies (outlining, mapping systems, skimming, scanning, key word search) to organize information and make connections within and across informational texts.	Notecards completed in correct format (20 minimum): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slug • Information in quotes, summaries, and paraphrases (all three) with label • In-text citation and Source # 	12/6
4.1f. Determine and use the appropriate style guide to govern format and documentation of quotations, paraphrases, and other information from a range of research sources.	Works Cited FINAL draft – no annotations	12/11
3.2a. Articulate a position through a sophisticated claim or thesis statement.	Working thesis written	12/12
4.1c. Critique and defend sources and information based on credibility, relevance and appropriateness relative to context and purpose.	Field research source evidence due in class <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact someone who’s considered a community expert in the field of your research topic 	12/13
3.2a. Articulate a position through a sophisticated claim or thesis statement and advance it using evidence, examples, and counterarguments. 3.2f. Support judgments with substantial evidence and purposeful elaboration.	Rough draft typed, including works cited, and submitted to Turnitin.com in MLA format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title • MLA header with page numbers • In-text citations • 5-7 pages 	12/14
3.2h. Revise writing using feedback to maximize effect on audience and to calibrate purpose.	1) Peer mark completed on turnitin.com 2) Revise paper 3) Paper edited by qualified individual and turned in MARKED UP as proof	12/15
3.2a, 3.2f, 3.2h and 4.1f	Final draft submitted, including works cited, to turnitin.com REVISION assignment	12/20
	Service Learning Project Proposal	12/21