



## Senior Interdisciplinary Research Paper

Spring 2011

## MacArthur High School—Senior Research Paper

**Overview:** The **Senior Interdisciplinary Paper** is a project designed to combine your knowledge of history and literature. You will write a paper exploring the connection between historical eras/events and their impact on society. You will use literature of the period to support your assertions. The paper will be a joint assignment guided, and graded, by the English and Social Studies Departments. **The Senior Interdisciplinary Research Paper is a Levittown School District graduation requirement.**

1. If you are enrolled in a Research Skills class, for either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, you will complete the Research Paper as part of that class curriculum. The final paper will count as three (3) test grades for the second marking period of that class.

**OR**

2. If you are not enrolled in a Research Skills class for either semester of your senior year, you will complete the Research Paper through your English 12 A class. The final paper will count as one (1) test grade for the second marking period of that class.

- The Social Studies component of the Research Paper is the Comprehensive Outline. It will be rated by your 12<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher in the corresponding semester to Research Skills/English 12A. The outline will be rated 1 (*unacceptable*), 2 (*acceptable*), or 3 (*exceptional*). ***Unacceptable outlines must be revised and resubmitted until a rating of 2 or 3 is achieved, in order to continue to the final grading process.***

3. If you are in a unique or alternate setting during your senior year (Special placement, Alternative School, GC Tech, BOCES) a designated teacher will guide you through the paper and determine the grade value of it. Home Instruction students must complete the paper as they would any other assignment. ***For all students in this category, a copy of the final research paper must be submitted to Joan Lorelli, Assistant Principal at MacArthur before the end of the 4th marking period.***

### **Research Paper Guidelines:**

- It must be 5-7 pages in length.
- It must have a minimum of 6 reference sources.
- There must be a minimum of 1 quote or paraphrase in the paper from each of the sources listed on the works cited page.
- All due dates must be met in order to receive full credit.
- A paper received after the due date will receive a **10 point deduction** for the first day, and a **5 point deduction** for every day thereafter, including weekends. Late assignments can be emailed to the instructor to stop the point deductions.

**The final date of submission for all 2<sup>nd</sup> semester Research Papers is.....**

**May 12, 2011**

## **MacArthur High School -- Senior Research Paper Unique and Alternate Setting students:**

1. **Special Education:** A unit on the Research Paper should be incorporated into the English 12 SC curriculum. The English 12SC classroom teacher, in collaboration with Special Education Social Studies teachers, should guide students through the research paper process. Modifications for students' special needs should be taken into consideration when establishing the requirements and grading rubric for the paper. Consultation with Special Education Chairperson Dawn Butler is recommended. Completed papers (graded) **MUST** be submitted to Joan Lorelli by May 12, 2011.
2. **Alternative School:** A unit on the Research Paper will be incorporated into the English 12 A curriculum. The alternative school English teacher, in collaboration with a Social Studies teacher, should guide students through the research paper process. Modifications may be taken into consideration, as needed, when establishing the requirements and grading rubric for the paper. Completed papers (graded) **MUST** be submitted to Joan Lorelli by May 12, 2011.
3. **GC Tech:** One teacher should be designated to coordinate the Research Paper requirements for those students who are not enrolled in English classes at MacArthur. Modifications may be taken into consideration, as needed, when establishing the requirements and grading rubric for the paper. Completed papers (graded) **MUST** be submitted to Joan Lorelli by May 12, 2011.
4. **BOCES:** One teacher at each location (Barry Tech/ Syosset) should be designated to coordinate the Research Paper requirements for those students who are not enrolled in English classes at MacArthur. Modifications may be taken into consideration, as needed, when establishing the requirements and grading rubric for the paper. Completed papers (graded) **MUST** be submitted to Joan Lorelli by May 12, 2011.

## **MacArthur High School—Senior Research Paper Directions to Instructional Staff**

1. If the Paper is completed in a Research Skills class:
  - Teachers will begin the assignment the third week in March.
  - Checkpoints, due dates, and point values for Marking Period 2:

○ Highlighted Research Articles .....	4/5	1 grade
○ Thesis Statement.....	4/6	1 grade
○ Comprehensive Outline.....	4/26	1 grade
○ Works Cited Page.....	4/28	1 grade
○ Rough Draft.....	5/5	no grade
○ Final Paper.....	<b>5/12</b>	3 grades
  
2. If the Paper is completed in an English 12A class:
  - Teachers will distribute the assignment the third week in March.
  - Each 12A teacher is required to present a brief unit on writing the Research Paper.

○ Final Paper.....	<b>5/12</b>	1 grade
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3. The Social Studies Component:
  - Social Studies teachers will receive comprehensive outlines as they become available, but **no later than 4/26**.  
They will return the outlines to the Research Skills/English teachers ASAP, but **no later than 5/3**.  
Outlines will be graded on the following scale:  
1 = unacceptable  
2 = acceptable  
3 = outstanding
  
  - Any outline graded 1 (unacceptable) must indicate specific revisions to be made.
  - All outlines must receive a Social Studies grade of 2 or 3 in order to proceed to final grading.
  
4. For Special Education, Alternative School, GC Tech, BOCES, and Home Teaching students:
  - Teachers will distribute assignment the third week in March.

○ Final Paper (delivered to Joan Lorelli).....	<b>5/12</b>
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5. If the Paper is completed in an English 12AP class:
  - Teachers will distribute the assignment in the spring semester.
  - Comprehensive outlines will be submitted to Social Studies teachers for rating.
  - Final papers will be collected, after the AP Exam is given, on a date to be determined.

**MacArthur High School --Senior Research Paper  
Final Grade Scoring Rubric  
For Research Skills, English 12 A, English 12 AP classes  
and Home Instruction students:**

**Works Cited (15 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

- Labeled page
- Last name and page #
- At least 6 sources used in paper
- Sources correctly cited

**Heading and Title (5 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

- Doubled spaced
- Specific title
- All heading components included correctly

**Format (5 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

- Page #s
- 12pt. Font /Times New Roman
- Paragraphs
- 1 Inch Margins

**Transitions/Topic Sentences (5 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Documenting Paraphrases (30 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

- paraphrases correctly cited
- paraphrases credited often enough
- documented information supports thesis
- paraphrases commented on

**Documenting Direct Quotes (30 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

- direct quotes that support thesis
- direct quotes correctly documented
- direct quotes introduced and commented upon

**Grammar and Mechanics (10 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Deductions for Lateness** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total (100 points)** \_\_\_\_\_

## **MacArthur High School—Senior Research Paper Suggested Topics**

The following is a list of suggested topics for the assigned research paper. These are broad topics that require a greater focus for your eventual thesis. As the paper necessitates the inclusion of themes and concepts found in literature, attached is a catalogue of works of literature that may be relevant to the specific question.

- 1) How was the role of women defined and challenged in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries?
- 2) How has popular culture been shaped by war?
- 3) How have myths and superstitions impacted society and its norms and values?
- 4) What effect does a “cult of personality” have on a culture?
- 5) How has the concept of beauty changed over time? Why have practices such as foot binding, tattooing, and piercings been valued?
- 6) How have gender roles changed? Which traditional gender roles have been challenged?
- 7) What is the impact of media bias?
- 8) How has the concept of privacy been challenged in the modern world?
- 9) What dynamics drive group mentality, such as gang behavior, political groups, and social groups?
- 10) How did technology create social disruptions during the Industrial Revolution? Any other time period can be substituted.
- 11) How productive is the United States’ educational system? How effective are recent legislative acts (No Child Left Behind) that demand an increase in standardized testing?
- 12) What societal dilemmas are inherent in recent scientific advancements such as cloning, genetic enhancement, and stem cell research?
- 13) Why is poverty an inescapable byproduct of any productive economic system? Were the conclusions of 18<sup>th</sup> Century philosopher Thomas Malthus correct?
- 14) What mechanisms assist adolescents in dealing with self-esteem issues?
- 15) How has the definition of the family unit changed over the past century?
- 16) How successful are our attempts to rehabilitate criminals?
- 17) Why do the hardships of wartime necessitate the surrendering of some basic civil liberties?
- 18) Why should students be required to shed some of their civil liberties at the “schoolhouse gates”?
- 19) How has the legacy of slavery and segregation impacted upon race relations in the United States?

## MacArthur High School—Senior Research Paper Relevant Works of Literature

These works have some relevancy to the suggested topics. Topic numbers follow each title. Other works may be used instead of, or in conjunction with those listed.

<i>1984</i>	2, 4, 7, 8, 17
<i>A Farewell to Manzanar</i>	2, 9, 17
<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	1, 13, 15
<i>A Separate Peace</i>	2, 14
<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	1, 2, 4, 16, 17
<i>All Quiet on the Western Front</i>	2, 17
<i>Animal Farm</i>	2, 4, 7, 9, 17
<i>Beowulf</i>	3
<i>Brave New World</i>	1, 3, 4, 8
<i>Catch 22</i>	2, 7, 9, 10, 17
<i>Frankenstein</i>	1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12
<i>Inherit the Wind</i>	3, 7, 8, 18
<i>Invisible Man</i>	3, 19
<i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i>	1, 5, 6, 8
<i>Monster</i>	9, 11, 14, 16, 19
<i>One flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	1, 3, 8, 12, 16
<i>Ordinary People</i>	1, 14
<i>Slaughterhouse-five</i>	2, 8, 10, 17
<i>The Awakening</i>	1, 5
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	11, 14
<i>The Crucible</i>	2, 3, 9, 14
<i>The Giver</i>	2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 14
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	1, 9, 10, 13, 15
<i>The Lord of the Flies</i>	2, 3, 4, 9, 14
<i>The Scarlet Letter</i>	1, 3, 5, 6
<i>The Secret Life of Bees</i>	1, 3, 14, 15, 19
<i>The Shawshank Redemption</i>	9, 16
<i>The Sun Also Rises</i>	1, 2, 17
<i>The Things They Carried</i>	2, 17, 19
<i>The Works of Dickens (Oliver Twist, Hard Times, A Christmas Carol)</i>	1, 10, 13, 14
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	1, 3, 13, 14, 15, 19