

Core C - American Lit Research Paper Guidelines

Topic: Choose a topic of interest to you from the time period studied in American Lit. & History this year (think about influential people, social issues, movements, etc.). Keep in mind that your topic **MUST BE ARGUABLE**. This means that someone could disagree with your thesis!

For Example:

NOT: *Adultery can be found in Puritan Literature.*

—This is uninteresting and leaves no room for disagreement.

INSTEAD: *Societal leaders should not determine the social punishment of sin.*

—There is room for disagreement here, and there is plenty of evidence to support your argument. It is as relevant today as it was during early America.

Requirements:

- The paper must be 5-7 pages and follow MLA guidelines (see the OWL).
- A minimum of 6 sources must be used; 2 of those sources must be books.
- Your paper should include a combination of direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries. Any material that did not originate with you **MUST BE CITED**. The amount of direct quotes and paraphrases, should not exceed thirty percent of your paper.
- Your sources must be scholarly writings. This does not include blogs, Wikipedia, or personal web sites.

Paper Deadlines:

December 10: Working Topic due

December 15/17: 3 sources due (in class); Working Thesis due

Q3 Week 1 : Final Thesis Statement & 1st set of 20 notecards due

Q3 Week 2: 2nd set of 20 notecards due

Q3 Week 3: Works Cited & 3rd set of 20 notecards due

Q3 Week 4 : Topic Sentences due

Q3 Week 5: Outline & final thesis due

Q3 Week 6: First 3 pages due

Q3 Week 7: Intro & Conclusion due; Bring full draft to class for peer review

Q3 Week 8: Research Essay Semi-Perfect Draft with Parent-Edited Version Due

Late Penalties: Each missed deadline will earn a twenty percent point deduction.

Final Paper: Final drafts must be submitted in a pocket folder. On the left side, you will include all of your graded drafts. Including: note cards (arranged in order of quote appearance in the paper in a ziplock bag), graded outline, graded first 3 pages, and graded intro/conclusion. On the right side, you will include your graded semi-perfect draft, final draft, essay checklist, and rubric.