



Research Paper Requirements and Prompt Choices English 9-10 Writing Strand

Requirements

Structure

- **Six full paragraphs of at least 5-6 full sentences each, written at the 9-10th-grade level**
 - Paragraph 1: Introduction to the research paper
 - Introduction should have a “hook” or research question
 - Introduction should provide clear context, background, or sufficient information for a reader to understand why the research question is important
 - A clear thesis statement that takes a definite stand on the research question
 - Paragraph 2: Counterclaim paragraph
 - Clear topic sentence that directly relates to the research question
 - Context or background to understand why the counterclaim is important
 - Evidence for the counterclaim
 - Analysis or explanation of the evidence
 - Transition to the first claim
 - Paragraph 3: First claim paragraph
 - Clear topic sentence that directly relates to the research question
 - Context or background to understand why the first claim is valid
 - Evidence for the first claim
 - Analysis or explanation of the evidence
 - Transition to the next claim
 - Paragraph 4: Second claim paragraph
 - NOTE: The second claim paragraph follows the same format as above for paragraph 3. Please address the second claim and the evidence for that claim in this paragraph.



- Paragraph 5: Third claim paragraph
 - NOTE: The third claim paragraph follows the same format as above for paragraphs 3 and 4. Please address the second claim and the evidence for that claim in this paragraph.
- Conclusion
 - Include a strong closing statement
 - Address the research question and evidence to wrap up loose ends
 - Give a sense of why the issue is important or relevant

Format

- Please use MLA format. This includes all of the following:
 - 12-point font in a traditional font style such as Arial or Times New Roman
 - Double-spaced
 - 1" margins all around
- Include a cover sheet with the following information:
 - Title of Paper
 - Your Fabulous Name
Ms. /Mr. English Teacher
English 9
21 March 2011
- Include a running header with this info: Your Fabulous Last Name and Page#

Due Dates

- Each of the separate assignments must be submitted on the specified dates below:
 - Outline : _____
 - First Draft (Peer Edited): _____
 - Outside Peer Edit: _____
 - Final Draft: _____



Research Paper Prompts

Overview

This assignment requires you to read a variety of sources and combine them into a well-written essay. In your essay, you will do all of the following:

- State whether you agree, disagree, or partly agree with the prompt.
- Use five sources to support your position on the topic
 - Use the three sources provided below
 - Use two credible sources you will find on your own.
- Cite all sources using in-text citation
- List all sources used in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

Research Paper Prompts

Prompt #1: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has been criticized and/or banned since the day it was published. Recently, publishers are considering “sanitizing” the text. Many educators and literary critics disagree violently with this proposal.

Assignment: Read the assigned sources carefully and find two additional sources. Then in a paper that uses **at least four** of the sources, develop a position about whether you agree, disagree, or partly agree that *Huck Finn* should be republished in a sanitized version.

Prompt #2: Cheating seems to be gaining momentum among high school and college students. Many students are of the opinion that since everyone does it, cheating really doesn’t matter. Other students believe that it is okay to cheat on lesser (homework or vocabulary type) assignments, but not okay to cheat on major tests or essays.

Assignment: Read the assigned sources carefully and find two additional sources. Then in a paper that uses at least four of the sources, develop a position about what the consequences for cheating in high school or college should be.



Prompt #3: In many ways technology has made life easier; however, parents, teachers, and administrators warn that the use of electronic devices (not limited to cell phones and laptops) in schools may have a negative effect on a student's education.

Assignment: Read the assigned sources carefully and find two additional sources. Then in a paper that uses at least four of the sources, develop a position about whether you agree, disagree, or partly agree that using electronic devices in the classroom harms a student's education in any way.

Prompt #4: In many ways social networking (Facebook, texting, email, Twitter, blogs, etc.) has become the preferred means of modern communication. Critics maintain that the art of more formal communication (written and oral) has declined exponentially. Others claim that irreparable harm has been done to individuals because of social networking.

Assignment: Read the assigned sources carefully and find two additional sources. Then in a paper that uses at least four of the sources, develop a position about whether the benefits of social networking outweigh the negative opportunities made available through this technology.