**Research Unit**

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment**

You will write a research paper about a specific aspect of the 1930s that relates to the novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, in some way. The setting of *To Kill A Mockingbird* is in a fictional town in Alabama, and the contents of the novel describe many issues and problems that were evident in the world during that time period. It is important for us, the reader, to understand these social issues in order to gain valuable insight into the events that transpire throughout the novel.

**Requirements**

1. Well-organized one-page research paper using books, encyclopedias, and the internet
2. Use MLA format for everything
3. You must have at least three different sources cited in the paper.

STEP 1: **Choosing a Topic and Brainstorming**

**9th GRADE ENGLISH: RESEARCH TOPICS**

**Status of African-Americans in the 1930s**

Jim Crow laws

Voting rights

NAACP

Laws for African Americans

Job opportunities for blacks

Housing/neighborhoods

Discrimination/treatment by white people

Segregation

Racism in the 1930’s

Lynching

Civil Rights Movement- March on Washington

Plessy vs. Ferguson

Scottsboro Trial

Emmett Till

1954 Brown vs. Board of Education

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rosa Parks

KKK

**Women of the 1930s**

Description/details about the traditional Southern Belle

Fashion

Careers, family roles, wages

Pearl S. Buck

Amelia Earhart

Ella Baker

Laws for women

**Economic and Political Concerns of 1930s**

President Hoover

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

President Roosevelt’s “New Deal”

The Dust Bowl/agriculture/sharecroppers/tenant farmers

WPA (Works Progress Administration

Black Tuesday

The effects of The Great Depression on the American People

Hawley-Smoot Act

State of Nevada- Legalized gambling

21st Amendment (1933)- Prohibition

Social Security Act

**Additional Concerns and Factors of the 1930s**

League of Nations

Hoover Dam

Summer Olympic games in Berlin

Jessie Owens

**Narrowing your Topic**

**Directions:**

Complete the graphic organizer. Place your general topic in the middle and then, from your reading, try to find subtopics that would fit together to make an effective one page research paper. Consider our specifications for the 11-sentence paragraph as your starting point. Remember it is only a one-page paper so we have to narrow specifically!

From those ideas, make a list below of your 3 subtopics. Lastly, compose a thesis statement. THIS SHOULD BE WHAT YOUR PAPER WILL PROVE! MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT YOUR TOPIC AND THEN YOUR SUBTOPICS WILL PROVE THEM!

TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Subtopic # 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Subtopic #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Subtopic #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

THESIS STATEMENT (temporary/working): What could you possibly want to prove about this topic?   
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 2: Collecting Information**

After you have chosen a topic, your next step is to gather information on your topic. In order to do this, you will need to exhaust a few resources. First, we will go to the library and Mrs. Hendrix will teach us about how to access the online databases. Then, you will use the electronic sources provided in order to collect the most recent and up to date information.

1. Create a Works Consulted List.

A Works Consulted is a list of sources you have found that you are going to consider using for your research paper. For this Works Consulted, you will compile a list of 5 sources that you can use in order to prove your thesis. You do not exactly know what your thesis is going to be at this point, but you should have some idea of the direction in which you are going. While exhausting the sources, you will begin to get a clearer idea of what you would like to prove in the research paper (thesis statement!).

A Works Consulted must be in MLA format. Therefore, you must know how to cite these sources properly. Not only will you be avoiding plagiarism, but doing so will help you when it is time to go back to the sources and find the information that you previously discovered.

2. Avoiding Plagiarism.

Consult your agenda. Be smart about your writing – your paper will be submitted to Turnitin.com and if you plagiarize YOU WILL BE CAUGHT.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is

In order to avoid plagiarism, I must…

**Some more info about plagiarism:**

1. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If I commit plagiarism, the result will be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. If an item is a direct quote, it must have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**STEP 3: Parenthetical Citations and Note Taking**

**PARENTHETICAL CITATIONS:**

Now that you have gathered 5 sources that all contain useful information on your topic, you need to narrow down your abundance of information.

1. First, you must decide on a thesis. Choose three subtopics that are related to your topic. For example, if my topic were President Obama, my thesis statement would look something like this:

**President Obama’s background and childhood, education, as well as early political career have all contributed to the positive impact he has made on the American people as the President of the United States.**

The three subtopics that I will use in order to prove that he has made a positive impact on our country are:

1. His childhood and background

2. His education

3. His early political career

2. Next, you will go through the 5 sources you have glanced at and choose the 4 that will best suit your needs in proving your thesis statement

Parenthetical or in-text citations are …

Any piece of borrowed information, whether it has been paraphrased or it is a direct quote, needs a parenthetical citation after it in a paper or written presentation.

If a piece of information is a direct quote, it also must have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**If a source has an author**:

**If a source does not have an author**:

**\*As a general rule, whatever word comes first on the works cited entry (author’s last name, title of section, title of book, etc.) will be the word used for the parenthetical citation.**

**\*\* These are general guidelines and examples, but you should refer to the MLA guide for added information.**

**How to do In-Text (Parenthetical) Citations:**

* Usually it is the author’s last name and page number: (Smith 33).
* For many database sources, they do not provide you with the page numbers. Also, internet sources do not have page numbers. In these cases, it is just the author’s last name: (Smith).
* If you have a source by two authors, it would look like this: (Smith and Jones 125).
* If there is no author, you have to use whatever comes first in the citation on the works cited – probably the title (either in quotes or italicized to match the citation on the works cited) with the page number.
* If you have two sources by the same author, you must distinguish between the two.
* Quotes within quotes “become ‘single’ inside double” – if quoting someone other than the author, you must state that person’s name, too

**STEP 4: Creating an Outline**

Now that you have brainstormed for your topic, gathered and cited sources, and taken notes from those sources, you must begin to organize your paper. You will do this by creating an outline. The Outline should identify all major ideas to be covered in your paper and should be set up in an organized fashion. Each main idea or topic should be next to a Roman numeral, and each sub point for that main idea should be next to a capital letter. Any details that fall under that sub point of that main idea should go next to the numbers. YOUR OUTLINE WILL BE WRITTEN USING COMPLETE SENTENCES!

Complete the outline below to prepare for your paper. If you need more room, continue on a separate sheet of paper.

Topic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I. Introduction

BROAD/General Statement

SPECIFIC/Thesis

A. Hook:

B.

C.

D. Thesis:

II. Subtopic 1: topic sentence in own words (THIS IS NOT A QUOTE OR FACT FROM RESEACH!)

A.

* Point A, B, or C needs to be a fact or idea that relates to the topic sentence that you are trying to prove. THIS IS IN YOUR OWN WORDS!
* The numbers underneath will be your facts from research backing up your point (topic sentence). This will include either a DIRECT QUOTATION or a paraphrase of one of your notes.
* Be sure to explain each direct quote using your OWN WORDS. Remember the “sandwich model”.

1.

2.

B.

1.

2.

C.

1.

2.

III-IV. Subtopics 2-3 should follow the same model as body paragraph #1!

V. Conclusion

REWORD YOUR THESIS



BROAD/General Statement

A. Restate the thesis

B.

C.

D. Thought provoking statement:

**STEPS 5 and 6:**

**Write the Rough Draft and Final Draft**

Writing a rough draft will be easy, if you have constructed the outline properly. You should be able to take the sentences from your outline and put them in order to create paragraphs. Each Roman numeral is a new paragraph. Your rough draft and final draft will include all of the parenthetical documentation from your sources. Without the parenthetical documentation, it is **plagiarism** (which will result in the grade of a “0”).

\*Please have a peer/parent/friend/sibling look over and edit your paper before turning the final draft in. An additional set of eyes will help to catch the errors that you have overlooked.

\*Triple check that you have followed MLA format! Please use the handouts I have given you, as well as the resources on my webpage.

\*Your paper is due on the date that is assigned. NO EXCEPTIONS!

\*Please be sure that you save everything on a thumb drive or on dropbox!