

# 8TH GRADE ENGLISH RESEARCH PAPER: *Life During the Elizabethan Period*

*The Elizabethan Period is one of the most fascinating times in English history. The lifestyle, culture, fashion, architecture, and literature were all reflections of the monarchy and the tremendous influence of Queen Elizabeth I. In order to better understand the literature of the period, it is imperative to understand the period itself and the daily life of the Elizabethans. .*

## **Basic Requirements:**

- No less than 2 typed body pages
- At least 3 - 4 sources
- MLA style in-text citations
- MLA style Works Cited page
- All students are required to use one of the following word processing programs: Google Docs, Microsoft Word, Pages, OpenOffice (PC), NeoOffice (Mac)

**Topic:** Each student will be assigned a topic from the Elizabethan Time Period—the time during which William Shakespeare created his greatest works.

## **Grading:**

- **Thesis** **30%**
  - Well-developed & directly addresses the topic
  - Takes a clear position
- **Use of Facts & Evidence** **30%**
  - Evidence / details support thesis
  - Consistently relates evidence back to proving thesis
  - Ideas shows critical thinking & analysis
  - Demonstrates thorough knowledge of topic
- **Structure & Writing Conventions** **20%**
  - Proper use of spelling, grammar, & punctuation (no errors)
  - Organization contributes to argument
    - Clear introduction, body paragraphs, conclusion
  - Smooth, varied transitions between paragraphs
- **Research, Citation, & Format** **20%**
  - Proper number of resources used
  - All ideas, facts, & quotes cited properly
  - Perfect MLA format for: quotations, citations, works cited page, pagination

**Research Paper Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

# English Research Paper Due Dates

Choose 3 – 4 **sources**

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

Write 3 – 5 **research questions**

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and share 3 **works cited entries** on Noodle Tools.  
Submit a typed “**working**” **Works Cited** to Google Docs or Turn It In.

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

Make 10 – 12 complete **notecards** that relate to your thesis

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

Write a **thesis statement**

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

Make an **outline**

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

Write a **rough draft** and submit it to Turn It In

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

Proofread, revise and write **final draft** and submit it to Turn It In

Due date \_\_\_\_\_

# Instructions for English Research Paper

## 1. Paper Length: No less than 2 pages in the body of the report.

- Your paper should be a minimum of two **full** pages, not counting the title page, citations, and bibliography
- The body of the report will include your introduction, at least three main body paragraphs, and conclusion.

## 2. Paper Format: Typed

- Standard type face (**Times New Roman ONLY!!**)
- Number pages except the title page
- Double space (**NOT BETWEEN PARAGRAPHS!!!**)
- 12 point type
- Margins of 1" on all sides. (Use the standard page format on your word processor)
- Do not use contractions such as "don't" or "can't"; use "do not" or "can not"
- Single indentation at the start of a new paragraph
- **IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL STUDENTS USE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WORD PROCESSING PROGRAMS:**
  - **Google Docs, Microsoft Word, Pages, OpenOffice (PC), NeoOffice (Mac)**

## 3. Sources: Minimum of three to four sources (you may use more).

- You must have at least **one primary source**, and one credible Internet source.
- Be careful with Internet sources; they must be reliable and include an author and page publisher except with the permission of the teacher.
- All references will be cited using the Modern Language Association (MLA) Style of Documentation.

## 4. Bibliography: A Bibliography page is an alphabetical list of sources you used in preparing your paper.

- The bibliography is a separate sheet of paper that follows the main body of the paper and does not count toward the two page paper requirement.

## 6. Note Cards: Contain information about your topic.

- You will hand in a minimum of 10-12 note cards.
- Each note card will contain factual information about your subject.
- Some notecards may be created on real paper notecards if you do feel comfortable using Noodle Tools.

**7. Visuals: (photographs, drawings, maps, charts, etc.)**

- A visual may serve as your primary source.
- Your report may contain visuals provided that they contribute to proving your thesis.
- The visual does **not** count toward the page requirement.
- All visuals will be located at the end of the paper in the Appendix.

**8. First Page: Your research paper does not need a title page.**

- At the top of the first page, at the left-hand margin, type (all on separate, double-spaced lines):
  - Your name
  - Your teacher's name
  - The class name and period
  - The date
- Then double-space again and center the title above your text (if your title requires more than one line, double-space between the lines).
- Double-space again before beginning your text.
- **The title should not be underlined, nor written in all capital letters. Capitalize only the first, last, and principal words of the title.**

**9. Self – Evaluation and Peer/Adult Evaluation: The purpose of these evaluations is to give you a chance to find and fix problems before your paper receives a final grade.**

- Do not wait until the last moment to have your paper evaluated.
- If the evaluation identifies a flaw, go back and fix it before handing in the paper.

# Resources for Research Paper

## Duxbury Free Library

<http://www.duxburyfreelibrary.org/>

## Duxbury Middle School Library Resources

<http://dux.schoolwires.net/Page/1401>

## Noodle Tools

<http://www.noodletools.com/>

## Tips for Using Google

<http://www.hackcollege.com/blog/2011/11/23/infographic-get-more-out-of-google.html>

## MLA Style Guide

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## MLA In-Text Citations

[http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e\\_ch08\\_s1-0001.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0001.html)

## MLA Works Cited

[http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e\\_ch08\\_s1-0011.html](http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/RES5e_ch08_s1-0011.html)

## Sample Research Papers in MLA Format

- <http://www.dianahacker.com/pdfs/hacker-daly-mla.pdf>
- <http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/pdf/Hacker-Orlov-MLA.pdf>

## Elizabethan & Renaissance General Resources

- <http://elizabethan.org/sites.html>
- <http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/elizabethan-age.htm>
- <http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/life.htm#History>
- <http://shakespeare.palomar.edu/renaissance.htm>
- <http://www.elizabethan.org/compendium/>

## Shakespeare Resource Center

<http://www.bardweb.net/index.html>

## The World of Shakespeare

<http://www.william-shakespeare.info/site-map.htm>