

Seventh Grade Research Paper

Objective: To gain a deeper understanding of a specific component of an ancient civilization through a research project.

Focus: Ancient civilizations have had a huge influence on our own culture and government. In this project, you will research a specific area of ancient Greece or ancient Egypt and write an essay that reflects what you learned.

Requirements Overview:

Sources: You must use at least **three** sources in developing your paper. You must use AT LEAST one book. You must submit at least **7-10 notecards**. All of your sources must be reputable.

Page length: At least 1 1/2 pages double-spaced, exclusive of the Works Cited page

Margins: One-inch margins

Font: 12-point font New Times Roman, black ink.

Format: MLA

THE STEPS

Choosing a Topic

Due date _____

Begin investigating a topic that interests you from the list provided. You can use the sources provided to guide you in your research.

Areas to consider:

*celebrations / festivals

*clothing

*family life

*government

*afterlife

*funeral / burial practices

*childhood / school

*art / architecture

*religion

*government

*jobs

*theatre / leisure activities

*science / technology

*medicine / disease

*food

*You are not limited to these topics; if you have an idea, run it by your teacher. You may NOT research Greek mythology for this project.

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 7-10 **complete notecards** that relate to your thesis

Due date _____

Write a **thesis statement**

Due date _____

Make an **outline** on Noodle Tools

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 _____

Detailed Requirements:

1. Paper Length: No less than 1½ pages in the body of the report.

- Your paper should be a minimum of one and one-half pages and a maximum of three pages, not counting the citations, and bibliography pages
- The body of the report will include your introduction with a thesis statement, 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 (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. Works Cited: A Works Cited 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 1½ page paper requirement.

5. Note Cards: Contain information about your topic.

- You will hand in a minimum of 7-10 note cards.
- Each note card will contain factual information about your subject.
- Notecards should be made using Noodle Tools.

6. 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.

7. First Page: Your English 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.**

8. 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 minute to have your paper evaluated.
- If the evaluation identifies a flaw, go back and fix it before handing in the paper.

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

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

MLA Works Cited

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>

Online Resources

http://www.ancientgreece.com/s/Main_Page/

<http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/>

<http://www.ancient-greece.org>

<http://greece.mrdonn.org/>

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/greeks/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/ancient_greeks/

<http://www.richeast.org/htwm/greeks/costume/costume.html>

<http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/>

<http://www.ancient-egypt.org/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/egyptians/>

<http://egypt.mrdonn.org/>

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/egypt/>