

ENGLISH II WORLD LITERATURE RESEARCH PROJECT ASSIGNMENT
EXAMINING HUMAN RIGHTS

A research project is very similar to the papers you have completed so far in which you discussed a particular aspect of a novel using a thesis statement and examples and quotations from the text. In this assignment, you will add support from additional sources to prove your thesis, though you might not use any information from a literary source. The process of finding, reading, and incorporating information from these other sources is what makes this a research paper. Because you have experience with analysis and know how to organize an essay using textual evidence, this should not be a totally new experience.

In his memoir *Night*, Elie Wiesel describes the horrors he experienced during the Holocaust. He has continued to dedicate his life to fighting human rights violations around the world. During his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize, Wiesel said, "Human rights are being violated on every continent. More people are oppressed than free. How can one not be sensitive to their plight? Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere." Despite these efforts and the work of countless others, human rights violations continue. The Holocaust is an example of a human rights violation and a horrible criminal act.

For your research paper, you will perform a critical examination of one of the articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and connect it to an historical or current occurrence of a human rights violation. The Declaration was adopted in 1948 by the United Nations; it was created in response to the atrocities committed by the Nazis during WWII.

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose an Article of the International Declaration of Human Rights and connect it to a contemporary event in the world that directly violates the Article. You will create a research project in which you investigate the facts, issues, and responses associated with the human rights violation. **Your essay will examine the cause of the violation, the effect of the violation on a group of people, and a solution to make sure the violation does not occur again.** You should see this as an opportunity to raise your own awareness about some of the terrible acts that occur around the globe.

SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATIONS WILL HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. **A discussion of a specific human rights violation** that includes its unique context and characteristics.
(What are the historical and cultural situations that led to the violation? What tactics were used to cause the violation?)
2. **A thesis statement** that presents your interpretation of human rights and of the specific violation.
(_____ and _____, encouraged by _____, caused the _____, and can be solved by_____.)
3. **An examination of the issues or problems** associated with the human rights violation.
(In what ways did the targeted group suffer? Who committed the violation? Why? To what end?)
4. **An analysis of the responses** to the human rights violation.
(How have people tried to end the violation? Has there been a global response? Have any of these responses been effective?)
5. **A discussion of the possible ways to prevent this human rights violation** based on your investigation.

*We will take about three weeks to complete this exercise. Please follow the dates and guidelines This project will be worth two test grades as well as multiple daily grades for checkpoints along the way. **You must complete this assignment in order to earn credit for the second semester of English II**, so you cannot whine or excuse your way out of this assignment.*

Media Center Dates:

March 7 (F)

March 11 (Tu)

March 17 (M)

March 26 (W)

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

In this project, you will articulate your stance regarding the cause and reason for a particular human rights violation. The topic must be arguable and you must provide research to support your ideas and points.

- A minimum of 8 slides, maximum of 11 slides (plus work cited pages[s])
- 4 secondary sources (3 from acceptable Internet sources, 1 from a book)
- You will convince your audience of the validity of your thesis by using the four of the kinds of **evidence**:
 - 1) **facts and statistics** (concrete ideas and numbers that support your claim)
 - 2) your reasoning (your interpretation and analysis of the problem)
 - 3) *ethos* (the ethical appeal – means convincing by the character of the author; in other words making yourself as author into an authority on the subject of the paper. AKA— know what you're talking about.)

A **minimum of four outside references** should be used to develop your project, whether those sources reflect an expert opinion, or statistical evidence.
- Your presentation **must** incorporate multimedia (pictures, a song, a video, etc.)
 - We want you to **SHOW** us what is going on with the human rights violation you are researching.
- Your conclusion will
 - review your argument and your major points
 - state some kind of **resolution** to the problem
- Your **writing** should be characterized by clear and coherent expression. Direct quotes are embedded in your sentences and reference material is paraphrased or summarized in your language as the reader.
 - **Minimum of 3 direct quotes** from scholarly sources
- Quotations, paraphrases, and summaries are correctly documented according to **MLA formatting**. A works cited list, located on the last slide(s) provides complete and correctly formatted bibliographic information for all works cited.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

1. MLA Format
 - a. <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>
 - i. (Or...Go to Google and type in “MLA FORMAT OWL PURDUE”)
2. International Declaration of Human Rights
 - A. www.un.org/en/documents/udhr
3. Research Helpers
 - a. <http://www.galileo.usg.edu/>
 - i. PASSWORD: civil
 - b. www.hrw.org
 - i. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014>
 - ii. <http://www.hrw.org/publications/reports>

English IIB Research Project Outline/Rubric

Remember that this outline is the bare-bones approach to writing. You may play with this format, but you must make sure that you include all of the aspects denoted in the format.

Also remember that you must have a new slide when you bring up a new idea or illustrate a new point.

Introduction _____/20 pts

Slide 2pts	Title Slide. This slide tells your audience what you will present. This slide also has: the name of both people working on the project, the due date, and class period.
Slide 5pts	Country Profile —What is the name of your country? What are some quick facts about this country (map, flag, a picture of the people, population, language, religion(s), and government)?
Slide 5pts	Overview of the Violation —this slide defines idea introduced in hook and gives historical overview – explains the violation and states why the violation is egregious. Include facts and statistics.
Slide 3pts	Connection to UDHR – explains the violation in the context of the UN treaty and explains how the violation goes against the treaty. What Article does it go with? (<i>Use Direct Quote; Cite using MLA format for in-text citations</i>)
Slide 5pts	Thesis Statement –an argument of the cause of violation, effect of violation on people or the world, and a way to fix what is going wrong. (_____ and _____, encouraged by _____, caused _____, and can be solved by _____.)

Body _____/20 pts

Slide 10pts	Cause of Violation —What happened in history that lead to this violation? (<i>Use direct quote; cite using MLA format for in-text citations</i>)
Slide 10pts	Effect of Violation on a Group of People —Which group of people is affected by this violation? How are these people affected? (<i>Use direct quote; cite using MLA format for in-text citations</i>)

Conclusion _____/25 pts

Slide 10pts	Closing statement that presents a resolution or outcome for the human rights violation. Are there any
Slide(s) 15pts	Works Cited —Properly cited in MLA format.

Spelling/Grammar/Punctuation _____/20 pts

Criteria	1 point will be deducted for every 3 errors.
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Presentation _____/15pts

Criteria	Details will be discussed at a later date.
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GRADE _____/100 POINTS

COMMENTS: