



Decade Project Research Packet



1. **BASIC FINAL COPY REQUIREMENTS:**
 - A. 4 pages
 - B. Times New Roman or Geneva font style
 - C. Double or 1.5 Spacing
 - D. 4 Sources Minimum (not including dictionaries, encyclopedias, or Wikipedia)
 - E. No Plagiarism—good mix of writer’s words with summarized and quoted sources. Always give credit to source material with an endnote in the text of the paper.
2. **INTRODUCTION & THESIS:** Introduction grabs the reader’s attention, gives relevant background concerning the controversy, educates the reader, and leads smoothly into the thesis which contains your position on the issue. This thesis indicates the paper’s organization.
3. **PAPER DEVELOPED:** Your paper must be properly developed including historically accurate information. Paper should start with your thesis and introduction. The body of your paper includes paragraphs containing the information you have learned. Finally, a concluding paragraph should summarize the overall idea of the topic, and should restate the thesis.
5. **WORKS CITED PAGE PROPERLY FORMATTED (USE www.easybib.com FOR THIS).** It will do all of the citations, you just need to copy and paste them into a works cited page.
6. **GRAMMAR/SPELLING/PUNCTUATION & SENTENCE FLUENCY:** Sentences are smooth and easy to read; fragments and run-ons are taken care of. Few, if any, errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar are present.
7. **CONCLUSION:** Conclusion effectively wraps up paper and gives a “finished feel.”
8. **TITLE PAGE:** This is formatted according to sample title page in this packet.
9. **ASSEMBLY:**
 - A. TITLE PAGE
 - B. 4 PAGES OF TEXT (MINIMUM)
 - C. WORKS CITED PAGE
10. Turned into you teacher in a manila folder.

Decade Project Research Paper Pointers

BE SURE TO NARROW YOUR TOPIC:

FOR EXAMPLE:

SUBJECT TOO BROAD: *ENVIRONMENT*

SUBJECT NARROWER BUT STILL TOO BROAD: *NATURAL RESOURCES*

SUBJECT NARROWED SUFFICIENTLY FOR A SHORT RESEARCH PAPER: *THE NEED TO STOP WATER POLLUTION CAUSED BY MILLS*

YOUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVES:

1. EXPLAIN A TOPIC THAT ASSOCIATES WITH THE DECADE
2. EDUCATE THE READER ABOUT YOUR TOPIC

DRAFTING THE PAPER

I. GENERAL: It would be best if you saved your research paper as three separate files while working.

- 1.) Title Page
- 2.) Text of the Paper (Introduction, Body, and Conclusion)
- 3.) Works Cited Page

If you do this, you can avoid many problems with spacing, etc., in another section of your paper. The text of the paper should be 4 pages long (double or 1.5 spaced). This does *not* include the title page and the works cited page.

II. TITLE PAGE: A sample title page appears later in this packet (page 12).

III. INTRODUCTION & THESIS: The introduction should gently “lure” the reader into your paper and into your thesis. Save the details for the body of your paper. In this introduction you should **introduce your topic** and **inform the reader of what they are going to learn**. Finally, write your **thesis** as the last

sentence of your introduction. This sentence will make it clear to the reader what the paper is about.

IV. BODY: There is no specific paragraph length for your body. You should at least have 3-4 body paragraphs in order to meet the 4 page requirement however. Your body paragraphs should address some of the sub-topics that fit underneath your overall topic. For example, if my overall topic was George Washington, I may discuss the sub-topics of: Early Life, Military Experience, Revolutionary War, and Presidency. This is where all of your factual information should be. Make sure that all the information you include is historically accurate.

V. CONCLUSION: First, the conclusion should “echo” or restate the thesis. This paragraph will summarize what you have already said in your paper.

VI. WORKS CITED PAGE: A model and instructions for this page can be found in this packet. To create this page, you need to use www.easybib.com and enter the information you have for your sources. You need to select MLA format, because this is the format used for this class. This will create a perfect citation where you can copy and paste into your Works Cited page. The Works Cited page should be the last page of your paper.

Decade Project – Research Paper Outline

Topic: _____

Introduction

Hook: _____

Sub-Topics and Basic Intro: _____

Thesis: _____

Body Para #1: _____

Body Para #2: _____

Body Para #3: _____

Body Para #4: _____

Conclusion: _____

AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

When you use someone else's words or ideas without properly quoting and/or endnoting, this is plagiarism. Sometimes, in cases where material has been directly copied from the Internet or from another source, plagiarism is clearly intentional and obvious (and is also cause for an "F"). However, plagiarism can also occur accidentally if the student does not properly cite the source material, or if the source material has not been properly translated into his or her own words.

The following excerpt is from The Fatal Shore by Robert Hughes. It is followed by student examples which illustrate problems with plagiarism. ***This material was taken from A Guide to MLA Documentation by Joseph Trimmer***

Original Version from The Fatal Shore

Transportation did not deter crime in England or even slow it down. The "criminal class" was not eliminated by transportation, and could not be, because transportation did not deal with the causes of crime.

Student Version A

Transportation did not stop crime in England or even slow it down. Criminals were not eliminated by transportation because transportation did not deal with the causes of crime.

Version A is plagiarism. Because the writer of Version A does not indicate in the text or in an endnote that the words and ideas belong to Hughes, the reader will believe that the words belong to the student. The student has stolen the words and ideas and has attempted to cover it up by changing or omitting an occasional word.

Student Version B

Robert Hughes points out that transportation did not deter crime in England or even slow it down. The criminal element was not eliminated by transportation, and could not be because transportation did not deal with the causes of crime (Hughes 189).

Even though the endnote has been included, Version B is also plagiarism. The writer has essentially copied Hughes' words but has not quoted passages that were taken directly from the text. There is no sense that version B is written in the student's own words. As a result, it is difficult to determine whether or not the student actually understands the material.

Student Version C

Hughes argues that transporting criminals from England to Australia "did not stop crime." How could it? Simply moving criminals from one place to another would not rehabilitate them or change their behavior in any positive way (Hughes 168)

Version C is not plagiarism. It contains an endnote and the student translated the material into his or her own words.

Sample Works Cited Page

WORKS CITED

- Erickson, Edwin. Toys and Reasons. New York: Norton, 1992.
- “Local Reading Scores Decline.” The Daily News, 27 Oct. 1996: A2.
- Mielke, Karen. “Television in the Classroom.” Time, 14 Aug. 1998: 61-67.
- Moore, Terrill, and Nick Linnon. “What America’s Colleges Should be Teaching.” CQ Researcher, 19 Nov. 2000: 5-16.
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Washington Schools Working to Solve Difficult Problems, 17 June 2001.
- “Public Education.” The World Book Encyclopedia. Vol. 5. 1997 .
- “Selling to Our Children.” Consumer Reports.com 17 August 1995. 18 Sept. 2002
<http://www.consumerreports.org/children/htm>.
- Trent, Donald. Longview School District. Longview, Washington: 14 Jan. 2002.
- Windisch, Marie. “Paying for Public Education.” American Education. 15 Jan. 2000.
23 October 2002 <http://www.americaneducation.com>.
- Zuckerman, Loren. “Teacher or Trojan Horse?” 19 June 2000. R. A. Long Vertical Files: Education. 16 Nov. 2005.

Instructions for Works Cited Page

1. Center “Works Cited” at top of page.
2. Put entries in alphabetical order by author’s last name. If no author is listed, then list alphabetically by title (Don’t list by “The,” “A,” or “An,” but by the first important word).
3. Double space throughout.
4. Indent second and third lines (if any) in each entry.
5. Put article titles in quotes. Underline names of magazines, newspapers, and books.
6. List only those sources that are cited/endnoted in the text of the paper.

(Sample Title Page)

Your Title

(this format is 24 point in bold)

[OPTIONAL GRAPHIC HERE]

by

Your Name
Date finished or printed

History 2
Period 9
Mr. McConnell