

## Research Paper Guidelines for Hilldale Middle School

Students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades at Hilldale Middle School will be required to write a research paper in their English class, as well as do other various research projects in other subjects. These are the standard guidelines for the Middle School.

1. Sources – All sources must be primary sources. The requirements for each grade are:  
6<sup>th</sup> grade – 1 book and 2 online sources  
7<sup>th</sup> grade - 2 books and 3 online sources  
8<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 books and 3 online sources
2. Research – Each grade will have 2 days in the Middle School library and 2 days in the Middle School computer lab. After that, all research will have to be done on student's own time either at home or school.
3. Notecards – Notecards will be 3x5, and students will create 2 per source. Students must follow the notecard format provided by their teachers.
4. Writing – Students will have 2 days in class to write their papers after all the research and notecards have been completed. All other writing will be done on students' own time.
5. Citing Sources – Students will create a Works Cited page following the MLA standards for citing sources. This must be completed in the correct MLA format provided by the teachers and handed in with the research paper.
6. Typing – Students will have 2 days in the Middle School computer lab to type their research papers. It would be very beneficial for students to own a flash drive on which to save their research. Any other typing will have to be done on the students' own time.

7. Formatting – All papers **must** be typed in 12 font, black ink, Times New Roman, and **must** be double spaced. **Failure to do this will result in reduction of points on the overall research paper grade.**

8. Total Page Requirements:

6<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 typed pages, plus a cover page and the Works Cited page

7<sup>th</sup> grade – 2 ½ typed pages, plus a cover page and the Works Cited page

8<sup>th</sup> grade – 3 typed pages, plus a cover page and the Works Cited page

\*Honors Class Requirements:

Honors 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 3 typed pages, plus a cover page and the Works Cited page

Honors 8<sup>th</sup> grade – 4 typed pages, plus a cover page and the Works Cited page

9. Due Dates - All parts of the research papers must be turned in by the due dates assigned by the teachers. Students will receive a calendar of due dates from their teachers at the beginning of the research assignment. This will also be posted on the school website.

10. Grades – The research paper assignment will be worth 300 points. Students will receive a grade sheet at the beginning of the research assignment detailing what each section is worth. This will also be posted on the school website.

- We will use the MLA format for all sections of the research paper. You can find how-to help for all research paper sections at [mlaformat.org](http://mlaformat.org)