

Honors 10 Research Paper

The Paper: You will write a 6-8 page paper on a social justice issue currently facing the United States. Be sure to include a strong thesis, supporting evidence, counterclaims, and rebuttals. **To be graded each paper must include a properly formatted works cited page.**

Basic Requirements

- Paper is 6-8 pages - This means your paper is **AT LEAST** to the bottom of the 6th page. I will not accept papers that are 5 ½ pages.
- Times New Roman 12pt font
- 1-inch margins (yes, I will check this)
- A formal MLA style heading in the upper left-hand corner
- A double Spaced document
- Your Last Name and page number in the heading on every page
- Minimum of 10 Credible sources **No Wikipedia or random blogs**
 - at least 3 different kinds of sources. (Database, news articles, professional journals etc.)
- A **bare minimum** of 10 intext citations.
- 50 note cards, each source must have the following notecards:
 - 2 direct quotations
 - 2 paraphrased note cards
 - 1 notecard with the works cited information

MLA HEADING Your name Mrs. Nordwall
--

Note Cards: Students will turn in **50 competed notecards**. We will go over how to create notecards in class. For each source, there must be at least 2 direct quotations and 2 paraphrased note cards as well as one notecard with the works cited information. Notecards may also include summary, analysis, and ideas. All notecards should include the appropriate parenthetical citations.

Topics: Students should focus their paper on one of the following.

- **Government Assistance Programs**
 - Do programs such as WIC, Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps) ultimately pose a societal benefit or harm? Consider the people they help and the government's role in upholding a civic society.
 - Should the government regulate the kinds of food people purchase with WIC or SNAP? What societal benefits and harms are associated with either side?
- **Cycle of Poverty**
 - The United States is currently in what some describe as an education bubble; that is to say, a high school diploma does not go as far as it once did. The more educated the general populous becomes the more education is required to “stand out”. Discuss the harms and benefits of an educated society and the resulting bubble it creates. What steps can the U.S. take to address this bubble?

- America is currently being investigated by the United Nations for extreme poverty. Is it the moral duty of the government to step in to prevent extreme poverty or should it be the obligation of the individual to find a way to help themselves? Is there a middle ground between these two choices?
- What can be done to address the issue of homelessness in the United States? What societal benefits and/or harms are would be associated with government assistance for the homeless.
- **Prison System**
 - Compare America's prison policies to other developed countries such as England and Norway. Does our system offer a societal benefit or harm?
 - To what extent is the government responsible for the people it imprisons? Should taxpayers money provide only the basic essentials for survival or should they also be responsible for rehabilitation programs such as mental health and education services?
 - Are for-profit prisons morally justifiable?
 - Should prisons focus on punishment or rehabilitation? Can they effectively do both?
- **Equal Pay vs Equal Opportunities**
 - Examine the pay gap between genders and people of different ethnicities. Is this gap largely due to a system that is inherently biased, or simply a symptom of different opportunities?
- **Fake News: Honest reporting and the Media's role in our Society**
 - Should news stations be required to report only what they can prove as a fact, or should they be allowed to make their own inferences and speculations? If allowed, to what extent should these inferences be taken and what can be trusted as a fact?
 - How can our country uphold a new outlet's first amendment rights while still holding them accountable to journalistic ethics?
- **Privacy Rights**
 - In the interest of national security, our country has been moving towards less and less personal privacy. New laws allow for decreased probable cause before agencies are allowed to monitor previously private accounts. Does this pose a societal benefit of increased security or a harm due to decreased privacy?
- **Health Care**
 - Should healthcare be an individual responsibility or a universal right? Compare our system to a universal system; which one poses the best societal benefits?
- **Create your own question:** choose a social justice issue and write a question that considers both sides of the argument. THIS MUST BE APPROVED BEFORE YOU CAN BEGIN RESEARCH.

Hello parents,

As part of the requirements for sophomore English class, your student is about to write a lengthy and detailed research paper. This will fill their class time until the week after Spring Break. Please take the time to read through the requirements and calendar for the sophomore research paper. **This is a requirement to pass English class.**

It is my intention that the majority of this paper will happen in class with very little homework necessary. If your student misses class time it will be their responsibility to get caught up as soon as possible. Please make note of due dates and check in with your student often about their progress. If you have any questions or concerns about the paper or its requirements please feel free to contact me via email at nordwalla@sd5.k12.mt.us or my classroom phone (406)751-3608.

Please cut off this section on the line and return to Mrs. Nordwall by March 1st.

I have read and understand the requirements and timeline for the Sophomore Research Paper. I understand that without this paper my child will not pass the Sophomore English.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____