

English 3  
Damilano

**Research Project Assignment**  
**Various Due Dates - see box below**  
**210 points**

*The Research Project will assess your ability to think critically about a question and/or social issue, as well as your ability to conduct research effectively.*

You will turn in THREE PARTS for assessment:

1. A business letter introducing your topic **(Due Friday 3/6)**
2. An annotated bibliography detailing your research **(Due Friday 3/20)**
3. A final essay explaining your response and/or solution **(Due Tuesday 4/14)**

Please follow the directions outlined below, as well as instructions given during class time, in order to be successful with your project. The total score will be counted as the “Writing” category - 35% of your grade. As this is a large part of your grade, I expect that you will put in the effort necessary to demonstrate these skills well.

**PART 1: Business Letter Introducing Essential Question - 30 points**

Decide on a topic of importance to you. This topic can be a social issue, a significant question about society and/or humanity, something you’re passionate about, a controversial issue, etc.

*\*Examples: How do I build a hover car? I wonder why language is better learned as a child? Why is the US Education system set up for 12 compulsory years? How does time travel work?*

If your topic is not already phrased as a question, decide how you would like to phrase it as such. If you need help, consider the following:

- I wonder why...
- How does...
- What is the effect of...

The quality of your topic and question will affect the quality of your entire project, so make it worthwhile! ***If you are stuck trying to think of a topic, [blog.prepscholar.com/good-research-paper-topics](http://blog.prepscholar.com/good-research-paper-topics) has some good ideas!***

Write a formal, business letter addressed to me in which you explain why you chose your topic and how you plan on researching it. Your letter should be one page long.

**\*\*DUE Friday, 3/6 (end of class)**

## **PART 2: Annotated Bibliography - 30 points**

Conducting research is a major part of your project, as this is the step in which you gather information with which to answer your essential question.

**\*\*You need a minimum of six sources in your final essay. Each additional source used in your essay will be an additional +5 bonus points (must be formatted correctly for points).\*\***

You must include each of the following types of sources:

- Two must be text (online articles, newspapers, books, magazines, etc).
- Two must be scholarly journals from academic databases.
- The remaining two can be whatever you want, within reason (videos, interviews, radio programs, etc).

**Annotated Bibliography Directions:** For each source, format the citation correctly on an MLA-formatted Works Cited page. *Use Easy Bib or NoodleTools if you need help with formatting.* Below each citation, include **3-5 sentences** that explain what information you found in that source, as well as how you will use it in your final product - how does this source help you answer your question?

*\*Each citation is worth 5 points, and points WILL be deducted if the citations and annotations are not completely correct!*

**\*\*DUE Friday, 3/20 (end of class)**

## **PART 3: Final Product - 150 points**

You will be writing a formal response to your essential question in the form of a multi-paragraph essay (minimum 4 pages, double-spaced). Research that you have gathered will help you structure and support your ideas. Your essay **MUST** have a Works Cited page (not included in the page count) that lists your minimum 6 sources.

If you have an idea for an alternate final product that better suits your essential question and research, you may conference with me and we can discuss an alternate project as a possibility. **NOTE** that this does not guarantee that the alternate project will be approved! If you choose to conference with me, you must do so ON OR BEFORE Friday, 3/20.

The bulk of your grade will rest on the quality of your final product (essay). Your essay should effectively demonstrate the answer to your essential question and your understanding of your research.

**\*\*DUE Tuesday 4/14 by 11:59 pm to Turnitin.com**