Research Project Overview

**Introduction:** This research project will be the final large assignment for the class this year. While you will have ample time in class, you will need to be working on this at home as well. A little bit of work each night will go a long way. Here’s a brief overview of the coming assignments. For a full calendar, see the back of this form.

**Part 1: Bibliography Cards/Working Bibliography- 25 pts.**

In order to conduct research correctly, you must find and cite sources correctly. If you don’t find accurate, professional sources, then the rest of your project is weak. You must create at least **12 Bibliography cards** (or find at least 12 sources). You may not use all of them in the end. Cards are 2 points each. It may be possible to finish this in school.

**Part 2: Notecards/Notesheets- 50 pts.**

After you have your sources, its time to take meaningful, accurate, useful notes including quotes, facts, figures, details, unique observations, and other points of view. Don’t waste your time (and mine) with meaningless notes about plot or random details that are not important. Make each of your **50 notes** count. Feel free to add more if needed. It may be possible to finish this in school.

**Part 3: Final Outline-25 pts.**

After you have found your sources, its time to organize, sort, and construct a framework for your final essay. Figure out how many paragraphs you need, how many quotes, sources, and other resources you will use. The outline must have at least 6 sources (of the original 12), contain at least three “body paragraphs” (perhaps more), and lead to a paper between 5-7 pages. The outline should contain both primary quotes (the novel) and secondary quotes (research). A thesis statement should adorn the top of your outline as well. The final outline must be typed and submitted on the due date

**Part 4: The Final Paper- 110 pts.**

If you did the outline correctly, this should be simple. Write a paper focusing on some literary aspect of your novel that is both arguable and supportable. Back up your thesis with ample textual support and examples from the book and the research. Follow all MLA grammar and formatting rules. The paper will be graded following the traditional paper rubric.

A final Works Cited page must be included worth 10 points. Once the paper is completed, breathe a sigh of relief.

# CP English 12 Research Calendar

| **March** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** |
| 11  Library Intro | 12  Research Novel Exam  Finish Presentations | 13  Bibliography  Cards | 14  Bibliography cards | 15  Bibliography cards are due  Group Revision |
| 18  Notecards Day 1 | 19  Note cards Day 2 | 20  Notecards Day 3 | 21  Notecards Day 4 | 22  3rd Nine Weeks Exam |
| 25  Notecards Day 5 | 26  Organize notecards  Draft Outline | 27  Last Day of 3rd Nine Weeks  Draft written outline | 28  No School | 29  No School |

| **April** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1  No School | 2  No School | 3  Type Final Outline | 4  Type Final Outline | 5  Final Outline Due  Drafting Day 1 |
| 8  Drafting Day 2 | 9 | 10  Body Paragraphs Due  Overview Sample Introduction/Conclusion  Draft Introduction/Conclusion | 11  Typed Draft Due  Group revision on research paper | 12 |

**Due Dates:**

**Bibliography or Cards-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 25 Points- March15, 2013**

**Notecards/Notes- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 50 Points- March 26, 2013**

**Final Outline- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­\_\_\_\_ 25 Points- April 5, 2013**

**Paper Draft-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_10 Points- April 11, 2013**

**Final Draft- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 110 Points- April 17, 2013**

Bibliography

1. Create either 12 Bibliography Cards **OR** a working annotated Bibliography using the Google Docs and Easy Bib.

2. Consult the research handbook for the correct Bibliography Card format. In general, it should look like this:

|  |
| --- |
| Call # or INT Source#  Citation example- Author. Book Title. Place:  Publisher, Year. Medium.  Library? |

**OR**

If you chose to make a working Bibliography, simply start typing a Works Cited Page and add a brief summary of each source. Example:

Works Cited

Jones, Jerry. Why I Chose to Buy the Cowboys and Why I Like the Hobbit. Dallas:

Jones Books. 2015. Print

This source is the personal account of Jerry Jones throughout his life. While most of the book is about other things, it will work well in the introduction.

Smith, John. The Book to Answer All Research Questions. Detroit: Penguin Books,

2014. Print.

This source has discusses every research question every. It discusses the symbolism found in the early chapters of The Hobbit. The last two chapters seem to have some relevant notes to my thesis on Bilbo’s journey.

Remember to keep all of your sources in alphabetical order. Every time you find a new source, insert it above, below, or amongst your existing sources to make room.

While this method does require you to type your sources now, it will save you from having to type another Bibliography later.

Notecards

For Notecards, you can either use traditional notecards or the online Google Drive system. Both require the exact same information, it’s just a preference of format.

Sample Notecard:

Slug Source #

Type your note here. Remember to only include one idea (this may be multiple sentences).

Pg # or INT Q/P/S

**OR**

Sample Google Drive/Doc Form (See the Back page of the packet for set-up):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Source Name | Topic/Slug | Note | Q/P/S and Pg. # |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Why do I need a Slug/Topic?**

Even before research, you likely already know what you may write about. Think of a few slugs/topics ahead of time (keep the number small) and try to find notes that fit those general categories. This will save you time organizing later.

**Why do I need 50 notes?**

You will likely not use all of these notes, but it is good to be able to be selective. If you are forced to write based on limited notes, that’s deciding on what to make for Thanksgiving based on what is currently in your kitchen. Go shopping! Go note-taking!

**Why use Google Docs?**

Notecards are very portable and can be easily sorted, but Google Docs is available on every computer, and even has an Android and iOS app. It’s not for everyone, but you may find it far more enjoyable.

**Why Q/P/S?**

It’s a good idea to take several types of notes. This will help you make sure you’re quoting, summarizing, paraphrasing.

Outline

**Introduction:** By now, you should be quite familiar with outline format. In case you’ve forgotten, here’s the general format for outlines. Sample:

I. Introduction

A. Introduction

B. Introduction Thesis

II. First Body Paragraph

A. Subtopic 1

1. Quote 1 (include the full, actual quote you plan to use)

a. Explanation clarification

b. Explanation connection

2. Quote 2

B. Subtopic 2

1. Quote 1

2. Quote 2

3. Quote 3

C. Subtopic 3- Summary Note

III. Second Body Paragraph…..etc.

**How detailed should the outline be?**

The outline should contain at least all the main paragraphs and topics and all quotes and notes you plan to use. Theoretically, after writing your outline and bibliography, you could throw away your notecards and write a great paper (Do not do this…it’s just an example).

I do not have a set number of topics, subtopics, quotes, or paragraphs. Remember, the final paper needs **6** **different sources** and should be between **5-7 pages.**

**What are the rules of an outline?**

Three rules:

1. Alternate numbers and letters for each new indent level. (Example: I, 1, A, i, a)

2. Every 1 needs a 2, every A needs a B.

3. Include actual information, including quotes, notes, summaries, and thoughts. Topic names are great, but you need real information to make it meaningful.

**How long should the outline be?**

I have no page limit/maximum but considering you’re including quotes, topics, and notes, three pages is a decent starting point, though it may be much longer.

The Final Paper

**Introduction:**

Because all students are writing about a different book, some which I have not read in a long time, it’s important you start with author background, a summary of the novel, and an overview of the main ideas in the book. Remember to end your paragraph with the thesis statement.

**Body Paragraphs:**

Body paragraphs follow the traditional pattern of quotes with “lead-ins” and “lead-outs”. Remember to alternate between primary quotes from the book, and research quotes. You may stick with the traditional three body paragraphs but will likely needs around 4-6 quotes or notes each. Feel free to use more paragraphs with fewer quotes each if needed.

Above all, don’t forget the purpose of the paper: You must have an idea and support it. If you don’t ultimately support your idea, you lose.

**Conclusion:**

Start by restating the thesis. Afterwards, walk through the highlights of your body paragraphs. If you used three body paragraphs, for example, you should have at least three sentences summarizing your main points. Remember to end with something interesting such as a quote, a call to action, a challenge, or a memorable thought.

**Works Cited:**

If you chose to write a Working Annotated Bibliography earlier, just copy and paste it onto the end of your paper. Don’t forget to remove your annotations and any unused sources. If you used Bibliography cards, put your used sources in alphabetical order and type them as per MLA style the final, separate page of the paper.

**Submitting the paper:**

On the final due date, submit your final copy electronically and submit a copy of all research materials including all notecards, bibliography cards, drafts, outlines, and any other notes.