



## **The Research Paper**

### **Teacher**

Mrs. Ivers  
English 10

### **Task**

Choose a book, film, song, musician, or musical group that comments on a social issue. Research the issue and the impact of the work, person or group on American social, domestic, economic or foreign policy.

**OR**

Choose a current social issue being debated by the presidential hopefuls. Research the issue, take a position on the issue, and explain how your position would impact American social, domestic, economic or foreign policy.

### **Definitions**

#### *Social policy*

- Created to deal with a social issue
- Aims to improve human welfare and to meet human needs for education, health, housing and social security
- Regulates and governs human behavior

#### *Domestic policy*

All government policy decisions, programs, and actions that primarily deal with internal matters

#### *Economic policy*

- Government policy for maintaining economic growth and tax revenues
- Actions that governments take in the economic field

#### *Foreign policy*

- Governs international relations
- Designed to help protect a country's national interests, national security, ideological goals, and economic prosperity

### **Possible topics**

#### *Films / Books*

- Grapes of Wrath
- Black Like Me

- Dead Man Walking – Capital punishment
- Driving Miss Daisy
- In Cold Blood
- To Kill a Mockingbird - Racism
- Good Will Hunting
- Fahrenheit 451
- Stand and Deliver
- Freedom Writer’s Diary – Tolerance

*Songs*

- Masters of War – Bob Dylan
- Blowin’ in the Wind Bob Dylan
- We Didn’t Stop the Fire – Billy Joel
- Where is the Love – Black Eyed Peas
- Out of the Clear Blue Sky – John Lester
- American Skin – Bruce Springsteen
- The Rising – Bruce Springsteen
- Peace Is – Fred Small
- Fragile – Sting
- Rich Man’s War – Steve Earle
- Born in the USA – Bruce Springsteen
- Killing in the Name – Rage Against the Machine
- Pink – Dear Mr. President
- Green Day’s – American Idiot
- We Shall Overcome – Pete Seeger
- This Land is Your Land – Woody Guthrie

*Issues*

- |  |  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Health care</li> <li>• Abortion</li> <li>• Families &amp; Children</li> <li>• Corporations</li> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Government reform</li> <li>• Social Security</li> <li>• Tax reform</li> <li>• Welfare and Poverty</li> <li>• Gun Control</li> <li>• Stem Cell Research</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation of Church &amp; State</li> <li>• Crime</li> <li>• Drugs</li> <li>• Civil Rights</li> <li>• Jobs</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Homeland Security</li> <li>• Immigration</li> <li>• The War in Iraq</li> <li>• Free Trade</li> <li>• Energy and Oil</li> </ul> |
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## Final Paper and Portfolio Due

March 7, 2008

### Format

- At least 5 pages of text
- Typed, double spaced, 12pt
- Margins – 1 inch top, bottom, left, right
- Pagination – top right hand corner of each page
- Works Cited page – includes only those sources referred to in your paper
- Cover page
- MLA format - to include in-text [parenthetical] documentation
  - [Citation Machine](#)
  - [Oregon School Library Information System MLA Citation Maker](#)
- Minimum of 5 sources including but not limited to:
  - AT LEAST 1 REFERENCE WORK – PRINT OR ELECTRONIC [no general encyclopedias]**
  - AT LEAST 1 MAGAZINE ARTICLE – PRINT OR ELECTRONIC**
  - AT LEAST ONE BOOK – PRINT OR ELECTRONIC**
- Any website **not** on the approved list must be approved by your teacher
- No Wikipedia – use of Wikipedia will result in a **failed paper**

### Late Papers

### Grading

The research paper grade will account for \_\_\_% of the overall course grade. Failure to meet the length and source requirements will result in a grade no higher than a \_\_\_\_.

### Assignment Due Dates

Topic definition -  
Research Proposal -  
Introductory Paragraph -  
Annotated Bibliography -  
Conclusion -  
Rough Draft –  
Final Paper and Portfolio – **March 7, 2008**

### Assignment #1 – Due

Define your topic using appropriate background information

- General encyclopedia articles – **not to be cited** in your paper or your works cited page
- Popular culture magazines – for **'hot topics'** in the news
- Class readings

Start the **Brainstorm** assignment

## **Assignment #2 – Due**

Draft a research proposal - 2 paragraphs discussing what you want to write about. Consider the following questions:

- What is my topic?
- Why is it significant?
- What background material is relevant?
- What is my thesis statement?
- What organizational plan will best support my purpose?

Complete the **Brainstorm** assignment and turn it in.

## **Assignment #3 – Due**

Write an introductory paragraph introducing the topic and argument/s that will be presented in your paper.

- Present relevant background or contextual material.
- Define terms or concepts when necessary.
- Explain the focus of the paper and your specific purpose.
- Reveal your plan of organization.

## **Assignment #4 – Due**

Complete an annotated bibliography

- Explain why each source is appropriate for your paper.
- Explain how each source will support your thesis.

## **Assignment #5 – Due**

Write the conclusion

- Gives closure to your paper – not a repeat of it.
- Explain the significance of your findings.
- Make a general statement that returns the topic to the context provided by the introduction. Tell the reader what you told him you were going to tell him.

## **Assignment #6 – Due**

Submit a rough draft of the paper

- Use your research proposal as a flexible guide
- Build your paper around the points you want to make - don't let your sources organize your paper.
- Integrate your sources into your discussion of the topic.
- Summarize, evaluate, analyze, and synthesize the information you find rather than merely reporting on it.
- Move up and down the "ladder of abstraction" from generalization to varying levels of detail back to generalization.

## **Assignment #7 – Due March 7, 2008**

Submit final paper and portfolio containing all completed assignments

- Topic definition
- Research proposal
- Brainstorm assignment
- Introductory paragraph
- Corrected introductory paragraph
- Annotated bibliography
- Corrected annotated bibliography
- Conclusion
- Corrected conclusion
- Rough draft