

WORLD HISTORY 2 RESEARCH PAPER

Yes! It is here. What you have been looking forward to - or dreading - all year. We are starting the research paper. You all are well set up to do this, though. We have been working on writing, thinking, and work ethic all year, and that is what you need to do well. So... get excited!

Each year, students ask, “why do we have to write a research paper?” There are many real reasons that will help you now and later in life. So here are my top three reasons for why we assign research papers:

- ★ You rarely get a chance to **really dig into a topic** of your choosing (generally speaking), so this is an opportunity to immerse yourself in one area and **become an expert**.

- ★ You **work on a myriad of skills** in this project that will serve you well in the future. These skills are not just useful in history classes, but in life. Skills like:
 - Reading from many different sources - primary and secondary - and trying to make sense of things
 - Recognizing bias and when you are only being told part of the story by some of your sources
 - Staying organized through a long project
 - Balancing the demands of a long term project with the demands of short term assignments (like Chemistry homework)
 - Synthesizing a lot of information from many sources into a coherent argument
 - Communicating effectively and persuasively through writing
 - Recognizing how to and what to cite so you are giving credit where credit is due

- ★ You will face challenges - big and small - along the way in this project. That is the nature of a hard assignment. You are lucky, though, because by getting a chance to practice, revise, ask questions, and revise again now, you will **develop a sense of how to tackle adversity** on other projects and challenges you face - in school and in life.

Oh, and of course, you will **learn some history**, too!

Here is **general advice** for how to **accomplish this paper while staying sane**. This is based on my own experience as well as reflections by my former students.

- **Pace yourself!** Do work each day on your topic – research, writing, and revising. This way you will find yourself much more relaxed and will not be sleep-deprived towards the end of the process.
- **Read general articles** about your topic in order to gain a general understanding of the topic you have chosen. This is a good place to start your research.
- **Establish a temporary thesis**. This will guide your research and writing. You can always change this later.
- **Research in a variety of sources** – books, articles, magazines, maps, etc. – so that you can write a preliminary bibliography that will serve as the backbone of your research. You can build from these.
- **Write a preliminary outline and keep revising it as you go**. As your paper develops, go back and see if it matches your outline. If it does not, be sure that your organizational changes make sense.
- **Keep updating your bibliography** as you find more sources. This will save you LOTS of time at the end.
- **Save ALL of your notes** and be clear when you write them about whether they are direct quotes or not and which source they are from.
- **PAY ATTENTION to the proper format** for everything! If you have questions on MLA formatting, check out the Online Writing Lab at Purdue University (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>)
- **REVISE, REVISE, REVISE!!!** Have at least one other person proofread your paper before you turn it in.
- **ASK QUESTIONS and ASK FOR HELP!**

Almost all of the information relating to the research paper can be found here:

<http://wh2remsen.weebly.com/research-paper.html>