Research Project

You are required to complete a research project for this course. This will be an individual project. You may choose any of the themes brought up in or related to *The River Reader* stories we’ve covered or any other appropriate topic to research. You will be responsible for doing the research, composing an essay based on your findings, and giving a short presentation (3-5 minutes) in front of the class about what you have learned.   
  
Once you have a specific topic on which a sufficient amount of information can be found, you must find and use **at least three** outside sources on this topic. They will be documented in **MLA format**.

**The goals of this assignment are to help you:**

* Become more knowledgeable about finding and using varied research sources
* Further develop your critical thinking skills and back up your points with evidence.
* Become more adept at synthesizing information and developing informed views.
* Discipline yourself to follow a scholarly research format to document in-text sources and a reference page.
* Compose a well organized, clear, concise, research paper to expand your knowledge on a subject

**In your paper:**

* You must reference the research you have done, giving credit to your sources (in-text citations)
* You must discuss the information found in your sources in your own words
* You must have a correct works cited page at the end of your paper
* Your essay must have a clear introduction, thesis, body, and conclusion
* It must be at least two full, typed pages excluding the Works Cited page and any figures or diagrams, formatted as outlined for college papers in Rules of Thumb

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| **Project Timeline** | |
| Wednesday, March 18th | Have Topic Ready, Create Outline |
| Monday, March 23rd | Library Day – learning about resources, outlines due |
| Wednesday, March 25th |  |
| Monday, March 30th | Tentative sources list due |
| Wednesday, April 1st |  |
| Monday, April 13th  (After Spring Break) | Draft 1 of Research Paper Due, Presentations |
| Wednesday, April 15th | Presentations continued |
| Monday, April 20th | Draft 2 of Research Paper |

**Resources for Writing Research Papers and Finding Sources**

**Writing Papers and Citing Sources:**

* Purdue Owl In-text Citations:  
  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/
* Purdue Owl Works Cited Page:  
  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/05/
* Purdue Owl Example Research Paper:  
  <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/media/pdf/20090701095636_747.pdf>
* Son of Citation Machine:  
  http://www.citationmachine.net/mla/cite-a-book
* A video about documentation in research papers: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6enxeLsG7o>
* There are also several resources in your *River Reader* and *Rules of Thumb*, the page numbers of which will be noted on the OpenLab site.

**Finding Sources:**

Please make use of any of the sources we learned about in the library instruction. Additionally, you may find these two resources helpful:

* How to get the most out of Google:  
  <http://mashable.com/2011/11/24/google-search-infographic/>
* Google Scholar:  
  https://scholar.google.com/

**NOTE:**

**You may not simply get all your sources from random internet sites. You must cite scholarly, or otherwise credible sources. THIS MEANS NO WIKIPEDIA, no blogs, etc.**

**Tentative Sources**

**Name:**

**Topic:**

**Thesis:**

**Source 1:**

**Source 2:**

**Source 3:**

**Additional Sources:**

**Notes:**