

Originally posted January 11, 2010
Dates changed March 1, 2010

Dear Parents,

Part of the eighth grade curriculum in social studies and English this semester includes the writing of a research paper.

Major emphases include choosing a topic, formulating a thesis statement, finding appropriate sources, preparing bibliographic and note cards, and internally documenting the paper.

Below are suggested research paper topics. If a student is interested in researching a topic within an era of history that is not on the list, he or she should consult Mrs. St. Charles.

1. The Civil War
2. Andrew Jackson's Indian Policies
3. Civil War Reconstruction
4. The Progressive Movement- Fighting corruption in business and government (late 1800s)
5. Women in the Progressive Era- Temperance and Suffrage (late 1800s-early 1900s)
6. Theodore Roosevelt- role in Progressive Movement (early 1900s)
7. World War I and its impact on economy of America (1914-1919)
8. United Nations League of Nations (1919)
9. Treaty of Versailles (1919)
10. Stock Market Crash of 1929
11. The Great Depression (1929-1939)
12. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal (1930s)
13. Dictators in Europe in the 1930s
14. Attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941
15. World War II and its impact on America (1939-1945)
16. The Holocaust (1930s and 40s)—could it have been prevented?
17. The Atomic Bombs in WWII (1940s)—should they have been dropped?
18. The Cold War (1945-1960)
19. The Korean War--outcome (1950s)
20. The Civil Rights Movement (1954-1974)
21. The Vietnam War—U.S. involvement (1960-1975)
22. The Bay of Pigs (early 1960s)
23. The Cuban Missile Crisis (early 1960s)
24. Nixon Presidency and the Watergate Scandal (1970s)
25. The Iran-Contra Scandal (1980s)
26. The Collapse of the Soviet Union (late 1980s and early 1990s)
27. Clinton Presidency—ethical impact (1990s)
28. Terrorism and its impact on America (1980s-2000s)
29. The Iraq War—U.S. involvement (2001-present)
30. Hurricane Katrina—handling of (2005)
31. Illegal Immigration—limiting of immigration (2000s)
32. Current Economic Crisis (2006-present)

- 33. War in Afghanistan
- 34. U.S. Patriot Act

Class time will be spent in library and English and some social studies to explain and go through the process step-by-step. We will be working in the computer lab as well. As this is a cross-curricular assignment, grades will be recorded in several different classes. How these grades will count will be communicated by each teacher at a later date.

Please note that the purpose of this paper is to prove or disprove a theory or idea, and this position should be reflected in the thesis statement.

The following are some *tentative* due dates:

DUE DATES

Friday, January 15		Topic due
Friday, Jan. 8-Friday, Feb.19		Research process
Friday, January 22		Thesis (topic) statement due
Friday, February 19	Friday, March 12	Sentence outline due
Friday, March 26	Friday, April 9	First draft due
Friday, April 30	Friday, May 7	Final copy due

The final draft will be **no less than** three typed pages, double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font. Please discuss this with your child. We would like your signature so that we know that you are aware of the project and the due dates.

Thank you,
Mrs. Linton, Mrs. St. Charles, Ms. Auerweck, and Mrs. McCain

Parent signature